Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3 No. 1. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. May 1899.

After the Storm

Five months have passed since the November storm wrought such havoc here and inflicted damage which at the most conservative estimate caused a loss of fully $10,000. They have been five busy months for every one connected with the School and while there are some things which we would have liked to do which have not been possible it is gratifying to see the results of hard work which has been performed during the winter and spring. We feel encouraged to know that by the first Visiting Day there will be not many tangible reminders of that fearful November night and day to aid the boys in the account of the storm which they will give to their friends and relatives.

First in importance, as the loss of the steamer was our most serious misfortune, is our new steamer which bears the same name, the PILGRIM, being built at Lawley's shipyard in South Boston, and now rapidly approaching completion. This steamer is larger and abler than the other and with more modern machinery, but although more powerful, will, on account of her improved appliances, be more economical to operate.

The three rowboats which were destroyed have been replaced by three others fully as good and named like the other boats the BREWSTER, PRISCILLA and STANDISH. Of these boats, also built at Lawley's, the PRISCILLA and STANDISH are each a little larger than the boats which they have replaced. The freight barge, JOHN ALDEN, which was torn adrift from its moorings and cast up on the beach near the South End, but which bore the strain of this hard usage very satisfactorily, was hauled out on the beach this winter, repaired, calked and painted, and fitted with a winch which will be a great convenience in handling her.

The wharf and breakwater have been thoroughly repaired. The heavy part of this work was done under contract by Messrs. W. H. Ryan & Co. New piles were driven where needed, a new fender-pile set at the corner of the wharf where one was broken off by the schooner "Fred A. Emerson," and the breakwater has been entirely replanked after it had been strengthened by a row of new piling. The north side float and the gangway which leads down to it have been rebuilt, as has the south side float, which was driven by the storm to Quincy and afterwards cut up there. The telephone wires to the wharf have been repaired, as well as those in other parts of the Island, and communication restored. The rebuilding of the floats, repairs of the wires, and, in fact, all of the work except the heavy part done by Ryan & Co., has been performed by our own force of instructors and boys.

One of the hardest tasks has been the repairing of the dikes which were broken in by the strong wind and unusually high tides of the storm. Of these the greatest damage was done to the east side dike, and it has been necessary to practically rebuild this for its entire length. This work has been done very thoroughly. The face of the dike has been protected for over a hundred yards by a breakwater four feet high built of two inch planks spiked to posts set firmly in the earth, and nearly the entire farm force, with the teams, has been employed for many weeks cutting and drawing sods to rebuild the dike to a height and thickness which promises to make it strong enough to resist any future attacks upon it. The water which flooded

the low ground of the Island at the South End, and inside the east side dike, when the waves broke through has been drained out, but it is impossible to tell as yet just how great the damage to the overflowed grass land will be. Certainly the hay crop cut there will not be as large for some years to come as that which has been cut during the last few years. In connection with the work upon the dikes should be mentioned the repairs upon the beach road, which was almost entirely washed away. New timbers have been put where needed, such of the old ones as were left have been returned to their places and many loads of gravel have been put in to return the road to its former grade.

No small part of the work done has been connected with the clearing up of the debris left by the storm. Between three hundred and four hundred barrels of paraffine wax, the cargo of the schooner "Virginia," scattered along the beach and over the Island, were gathered up and drawn to the wharf where they could be put on board lighters by the agents of the insurance company which took possession of them. A hundred or more of these barrels had been floated on to the low ground at the extreme south end of the Island from where they could be recovered only with great difficulty. The wreckage of the schooner "Virginia," which went entirely to pieces here, was drawn out on to the beach at low tide, as was also the wreck of our own steamer, the PILGRIM, which was stove in and sunk by the schooner "Fred A. Emerson;" and after all available material in the shape of machinery, rigging and junk had been removed from these the remainder of the hulls was broken up into shape for fire wood. The refuse which was not worth saving was piled up on the beach to be burned. To this pile was added such other unavailable wreckage and driftwood as was collected in cleaning the beaches, until the pile was at least ten feet in height and fifty feet in diameter. This pile of waste wood, well dried by sun and wind, was lighted on the evening of April 19th, Patriots' Day, as a part of the celebration of that day, and made a fire which lasted for hours, lighting up the harbor and shores of the Island for a long distance. It is not often that the lighting of a bonfire holds so much of interest, and, we might almost say of sadness, as did this to those who stopped to reflect that the beautifully colored flames which played about the salt water-soaked driftwood were fed with fragments of the four schooners wrecked here, our own steamer PILGRIM and our three row-boats, parts of the wharf and floats, and pieces of several other damaged rowboats which were cast ashore here.

Mr. B. Thrasher

Patriots' Day

On the 19th of April we celebrated the day known in history as "Patriots' Day." After breakfast the Color Sergeant raised the Stars and Stripes to the sound of the bugle. Later some of the boys that had not seen the PILGRIM went over to Lawley's, where the work is going on. Early in the afternoon a number of the graduates came, and at three o'clock they and the boys played ball. The score was twenty-eight to nineteen in favor of the School. After supper we played out of doors until seven o'clock, when we went to the wharf where there was a large pile of wood collected from the beach. Some of it was driftwood but most of it was from the schooner "Virginia" and others which were wrecked here in the November storm. This wood was thoroughly dried. Some of the boys got armfuls of hay and set the hay on fire. This caught on the dry wood and in a few minutes the whole pile was a flame of fire. After it got to burning good some of the waste wax that was crumbled up from the cargo of the wrecked "Virginia," was thrown on to the fire, when it lighted the harbor up so that we could see over to the city, plainly, and see the boats in the harbor. Some boys got too near the fire and in the morning their faces were sore and red like beets. We will get quite a lot of old iron out of the ashes. Having enjoyed the day we went to bed at nine o'clock.

WALTER L. CARPENTER.

Playing Marbles

The boys are playing marbles now. They have several different ways of playing. They play "bunny," "roll at a glassy," "odd or even."

"eggs in the bush," "roll at a button," and "block and chasing." To play "bunny" they have a hole in the ground and stand a little ways off and try to get the marbles in. All that they get in are their own. To "roll at a glassy" one boy sets down a glassy and others roll at it. The one that hits it gets it. To play "odd or even" one boy holds out his hand with as many marbles in it as he wishes and the other boy guesses; if he guesses right he gets it. If he guesses even when it is odd he has to give the other boy one to make it even. To play "eggs in the bush" a boy holds some marbles in his hand and the other boy guesses the number. As many away from it as he guesses he has to give the other fellow. To "roll at a button" is similar to rolling at a glassy, only you roll at a button. I mean fancy buttons such as you wear for badges. To play "block and chasing" one boy puts a marble down and the other boys snap at it. If a boy hits it the other has to give him a marble. It is great fun and the boys all join in and play.

GEORGE E. HART.

Sifting Gravel

During the winter the most of the gravel that we had on our walks has been washed down into the gutters and into the traps at the end of the gutters. This spring we have had to get more to take the place of that. The way we sift the gravel is to take a team and a large sieve and set the sieve up in the team so that the largest stones, those that don't go through the sieve, will fall out on to the ground. As the gravel goes through the sieve it forms a pile under it. After this pile gets large enough to touch the screen and stops the unsifted gravel from going through it has to be hauled off in the cart. When a load is sifted it is drawn up in front of the wash room and left for Mr. Berry to have spread on the walks.

CHESTER O. SANBORN.

Starting the Hotbeds

On the southern part of the Island, near the root cellar, Mr. Mason has two sets of hotbeds, where he starts tomato plants, early lettuce, and such things. The other day I put the horse into the cart and took a load of dressing over and tipped it in the pile. I shoveled the loam out of the hotbeds, spread the dressing four inches deep, put the loam back and leveled it. Then I came to the barn and got some windows and took them to the hotbeds. Mr. Mason then planted the seeds and put the windows on.

FREDERICK F. BURCHSTED.

Neat Papers

Miss Strong thought it would be nice if the boys that have the best and neatest papers could have them put up somewhere so that the instructors and friends who come to visit the School could see them. So she found a place for them on either side of the schoolroom. The boys that sit on the right hand side have their papers put up on that side, and the boys on the left hand side have theirs put on the left side. The boy that has the best paper has his on top, and so on, down to the last paper which Miss Strong thinks is the poorest of those which were good enough to put up. I have quite a number of papers that were put up as the first ones.

WILLIAM M. ROBERTS.

My Work

We have had lots of work this year sawing wood. The small boys take the buck saws and there are four of the boys, counting myself, that take the two cross-cut saws. After we get through sawing one piece we ask Ed Steinbrick what one he would like us to take next. When he gives us a piece we get right to work again. Some wood is water-soaked and is pretty hard to cut.

RALPH O. ANDERSON.

Driftwood

On our beaches there is a lot of driftwood and some more comes in with every high tide. There are all kinds of wood that come ashore, such as boards, shingles, planks, boxes, barrels, pieces of trees, bamboo, piles, and sometimes you see the bow or some part of a large schooner. Sometimes the boys get permission to go down on the beach, and they get any kind of wood they want. Since the storm we have been cleaning up the beaches and have got a great deal of wood.

JOHN J. CONKLIN.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

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DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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Little Things

Look out for the little things of life, for they are very apt to be the ones which will really most effect you for good or ill. Very rarely will you be brought face to face with a great emergency, but the small events so crowd upon one,- perhaps by dozens every day, -that their aggregate influence in the end is the greatest. It is just as if a man who had a long journey to make on foot had fixed his eyes on a range of high mountains in the distance, and thought of nothing except how he should cross them. Absorbed in this problem he misses sight of the right road, which would have led him by a gentle grade over the obstruction, and wandering from the beaten path falls headlong into a ditch which he had not noticed and in which he will be grievously delayed, even if the fall has not seriously injured him.

Learn to notice the little things about you instinctively, and take advantage of your knowledge. When you cast your eyes up to the pennant, notice which way the wind is blowing; when you go near the wharf, observe how high the tide is and whether it is going or coming. The ability to furnish this information at a moment's notice may save time enough to enable some one to transact important business which otherwise might have been delayed or even missed entirely.

Learn to observe little things while going about your regular work, and reason out the results which may be drawn from your observations. The power of observation which the American Indian has cultivated would put to shame many white men. One day an Indian returning home discovered that his venison which he had hung up to dry, had been stolen. After carefully examining the wigwam and the ground about it, he started out to track the thief. He had not gone far when he met a man and asked him if he had met a little, old, white man, with a short gun, having with him a small, bob-tailed dog. The man of whom the question was asked replied that he had met just such a person, but in talking longer with the Indian was astonished to learn that the latter had not seen the man whom he had so accurately described. Being asked how he could give such a minute description of some one whom he had not seen, the Indian replied, "I knew the

thief was a little man because he rolled up a stone to stand on in order to reach the venison; I knew he was an old man by his short steps; I knew he was a white man because he turned his toes out when he walked, something an Indian never does; I knew he had a short gun by the mark it left on the tree where he had stood it up; I knew the dog was small by his tracks and short steps, and that he had a bob-tail by the mark it left in the dust when he sat down."

"Think naught a trifle, though it small appear;
Small sands the mountains, moments make the year,
And trifles, life."

Columbus saw a few bits of seaweed and some driftwood floating on the waves, but with them he was able to quell a mutiny and discover a continent. A little boy in Holland saw water trickling through a tiny hole near the bottom of a dike. He knew that if he took even time to go for help the leak would swell until the whole dike would be destroyed and the country flooded. He pressed his little hand to the leak and kept it there through many painful hours, until he could attract the attention of a passer-by. He saved his country, and even now, after many years have gone by, his name is held in grateful remembrance in Holland. You may never have an opportunity to do as much as that, but if you will pay close attention to the little things with which you come in contact rest assured your own life and the lives of others will be happier and more successful than they will be if you live careless and heedless of what goes on about you.

M. B. Thrasher.

Notes

April 2. Easter Sunday. Concert at 3 P. M.

April 3. Band of Mercy held an evening session.

April 4. Cottage Row quarterly election. The following officers were elected. Mayor, Samuel F. Butler; aldermen, Dana Currier, William I. Ellwood, Clarence W. Wood; assessor, Frederick W. Thompson; street commissioner, John J. Irving; chief of police, William Mourey; jury, George Thomas, C. Edward Crowell, Frederick W. Thompson, John J. Powers, Barney Hill, John J. Irving, Frederick F. Burchsted. The mayor appointed as clerk, William Austin; curator, William C. Carr; librarian, Herbert E. Balentine; treasurer, Frederick F. Burchsted. The chief of police appointed as patrolmen, Joseph A. Carr and Samuel W. Webber.

"Reminiscences of Neal Dow" presented by W. C. T. U. of South Boston.

April 5. Blacksmith shod all the horses.

April 7. Guardian towed spar from East Boston for our new float.

Nils G. Nilson finished work in Vermont.

Oloff Wilson made us a call.

Barge JOHN ALDEN launched and towed to South Boston and return for freight by the steamer Watchman.

Century Gallery of one hundred portraits received from Mr. Charles Evans.

April 10. Book "Secret of Achievement" by Dr. O. S. Marden given to the library by the author.

April 11. Steamer Guardian towed the second spar from East Boston for the new float. The first spar was taken from the Philadelphia Line S. S. Spartan, and this one from the Schooner Hattie Marsh.

Carl Steinbrick visited the School.

April 12. Manager Mr. Francis Shaw passed a portion of the day here.

April 13. William B. Winters came to pass a few days before going to his new position with Mr. Edward Cunningham, Dedham, Mass.

April 15. Long distance telephone line being put in good condition by the Company.

The old grass was burned from the several fields of the Island, which is considerably later than usual.

Canvas covers arranged at the wharf for covering the small boats.

Planted early potatoes, peas, beans, spinach and radishes.

April 17. Mr. Berry visiting boys.

April 18. Sowed onion seed.

William May entered the school.

Flagstaff painted and topmast hoisted.

Mr. Thrasher visiting boys in New Hampshire.

April 19. Patriots' Day.

Ball game in the afternoon.

Graduates Charles E. Andrews, Robert Blanton, William D. Hart, William G. Cummings, Benjamin F. Gerry, Herbert A. and Clifford M. Pulson visited us.

Bonfire in the evening.

April 20. Sowed peas and oats.

Thomas J. Hind's men began general repairs on the slate roofs, gutters, etc., to the buildings.

April 21. Sowed the oat field.

April 24. Howard B. Ellis began work in the employment of Thomas J. Hind, 19 Milk Street, roofer and contractor for artificial walks, asphalt floors, water tight cellars, etc..

New float which we have been building put in place on the north side of the wharf.

Band began practicing in open air.

April 25. First dandelion.

April 26. Mr. John R. Morse here to advise and plan with Mr. Steinbrick, the leader, the work of the band for the season. This is Mr. Morse's first visit since last fall and we are pleased to greet him again.

April 27. Mrs. Glendower Evans, Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Cabot made us a call.

First radishes from the hotbed.

April 29. Arbor Day.

Exercises in the afternoon.

Park Pier floats have been removed in the past two or three days and the steamer "Ella" called and reports she is to open the season to-morrow.

April 30. Graduates Frank P. Wilcox and William G. Cummings here.

Arbor Day

It has been our custom for a number of years to observe Arbor Day and have exercises suited to the occasion. What we did this year you may see by the programme printed in this number of the BEACON Many things can be learned on this day, such as we learned this year from Mr. Bradley's talk. He explained to us the planting of a tree and the care that should be taken of it. We also learned that if some people had not taken an interest in the planting of trees we should not have had nearly such a pretty Island. A good many trees were planted this year in different parts of the Island. The one we planted on the Campus was dedicated to Mr. Thrasher.

LEO T. DECIS.

Arbor Day Programme

BAND

RECITATION — *Edward L. Davis*

LESSON OF THE LEAVES

EXERCISE — *George A. C. McKenzie*, *W. C. J. Frueh*, *George I. Leighton*

TALKING IN THEIR SLEEP

PLANTING OF THE TREE

SONG — *School*

O ARBOR DAY, SWEET ARBOR DAY

RECITATION — *Horace P. Thrasher*

SPRING AND SUMMER

EXERCISE — *Eight Boys*

FAMOUS TREES

SONG — *School*

THE LINDEN TREE

EXERCISE — *Charles W. Jorgensen*, *Herbert E. Balentine*

THE OAK TREE

RECITATION — *Joseph A. Carr*

WORDS FROM THE TREES

BAND

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand April 1st, 1899,	$379.72
Deposited during the month	$7.60
	$387.32
Withdrawn during the month	$19.91
Balance May 1st, 1899,	$367.41

Easter Concert Programme

SONG — *Choir.*

JOY, JOY, JOY

GREETING — *Thomas Brown.*

THE EASTER PROMISE

SONG — *Choir.*

JOYFUL EASTER BELLS

PRAYER — *Mr. Reed.*

RECITATION — *George Thomas.*

RING, HAPPY BELLS

EXERCISE — *W. C. J. Frueh and W. Flynn.*

IN THE EARLY DAWNING

RECITATION — *Horace P. Thrasher.*

AN EASTER BONNET

SONG — *Choir.*

WEEPING MARY

SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS — *Class.*

RECITATION — *Don C. Clark.*

THE EASTER SONG

RECITATION — *George E. Hicks.*

AN EASTER RESOLVE

EXERCISE — *Class.*

AN EASTER JOKE

SONG — *Choir.*

SWEET ARE THE PROMISES

RECITATION — *George E. Hart.*

BLESSING THE BELLS

RECITATION — *Samuel W. Webber.*

NATURE'S EASTER STORY

SONG AND EXERCISE — *Choir and Class.*

RING THE BELLS OF EASTER

CORNET SOLO — *Howard B. Ellis.*

THE LOST CHORD

RECITATION — *Walter L. Carpenter.*

EASTER DAY

SONG — *Choir.*

LOVELY BEAMS OF MORNING

RECITATION — *C. Alfred H. Malm.*

HOW THE LILIES CAME TO GROW

SONG — *Choir.*

EASTER DAY

RECITATION — *Warren Holmes.*

EASTER LILIES

RECITATION — *William I. Ellwood.*

THE EASTER SPIRIT

SONG — *Choir.*

A MIGHTY SAVIOUR

ADDRESS — *Mr. Reed.*

SONG — *Choir.*

THE SHOUT OF TRIUMPH

How Blue Prints Are Made

A blue print is a copy of a drawing, and is made by a chemical process something the same as a photograph. First a drawing is made, and inked in. Then a piece of tracing cloth is laid over the drawing and traced over with ink. This is put into a printing frame with a piece of blue print paper under it, and exposed to the sun about eight minutes. The blue print is then rinsed in several changes of water and hung up to dry. When dry it is pasted on a piece of cardboard to give it additional strength. It is then ready for use. When drawn copies were used it took many days to make a single drawing, but with the blue print process a duplicate can be made in a very few minutes. The blue prints which are used in our forging class were made here at the school by Mr. Littlefield and one of the boys, in 1896.

HERBERT E. BALENTINE.

Telephones

There were 1,231,000,000 messages sent out last year by the American Bell Telephone Company. 1,124,846 instruments and 779,989 miles of wire were used in transmitting them. This Company has 465,180 stations and 19,668 employees. More telephones are used in the United States than in all Europe.

Arctic Currents

The United States Government will send out fifty patent casks in the revenue cutter "Bear" to be dropped at different points in the Arctic ocean. The casks are to be picked up by passing vessels and a report made to the Geographical Society at Philadelphia. By this means the exact location of the Arctic currents will be found.

The Scientific American is authority for the statement that Mt. Vesuvius was recently covered with a heavy fall of snow while the crater was in eruption. The sight was a very strange one; three streams of red hot lava moving at one time through the white snow.

Alumni

Henry O. Wilson, '89, paid us a visit recently and passed the night here. He has been living this winter in the town of Newington, N. H., where he has just finished a contract for chopping logs for lumber. He is spoken of there as an industrious young man of excellent habits.

Edward G. Rodday, '94, wrote us recently from the quarters of Co. D, 13th U. S. Infantry, at Fort Columbus, N. Y., but he expected very soon after that to start for the Philippine Islands, to which place his regiment had already been ordered The regiment was to go overland to San Francisco, and sail from there. Rodday seemed to enjoy the prospect, for he wrote, "I am at least sure of seeing foreign service in this new conflict, and also will see a good deal of our own country going through the continent by rail and viewing it as Cook's tourists do, 'through the car window.'" After good wishes for all, he closes, "Have I been forgotten? Does absence cause forgetfulness? I hope not."

Carl Steinbrick, '94, made us a visit not long ago, going afterwards to Providence to spend a few days with his sister there, where his brother Ed also joined them for a day's visit. Carl remains in the home where he has been since he left the School, with the family of Mr. Frank Nash of Williamsburg, Mass., from where the most favorable reports possible come of him. As Mr. Nash is at home but very little, and the family consists of Miss Nash and her mother, Carl is the man of the house, and very creditably indeed does he fulfill the responsibilities put upon him. Not only is this true of the family but it is also quite true of the neighborhood, for he is such efficient help that his services are frequently sought by the neighbors when there is any extra task to be performed, a condition of things which is very profitable for Carl's bank account. Those who saw Carl when he was here commented favorably upon his straight-forward manner and frank and open conversation.

Orra H. H. Becker, '96, who has been living for the last three years in the family of Mr. Thomas S. Eaton, at Auburn, Mass., spent the night at the School recently. He has just been relocated with Sumner Parker, '90, who has taken a large farm in Westmoreland, N. H., and begun business for himself.

Herbert A. Pulson, '96, visited us recently and reports very favorably upon his work. He remains with the same employers with whom he has been for some time, the W. U. Lewisson Company, manufacturers of umbrellas, parasols and walking-sticks. He attends the Congregational church in Faneuil and belongs to the organization of King's Sons.

Clifford M. Pulson, '97, who is learning a branch of the machinist's trade as a maker of fine watchmakers' tools, with the Rivet Watch Tool Company of Faneuil, has recently been promoted at his work. Clifford belongs to the Y. M. C. A. of Newton. He retains the same interest in athletics which made him one of the best all-round athletes at the School when he was here, and keeps up his practice, so that he is becoming well known in local athletic circles.

Robert B. Blanton, '97, who was among the graduates who visited us on Patriots' Day, is doing general machine work, this being his second year's apprenticeship with the American Tool and Machine Company of Hyde Park. He belonged to the Fairmount Athletic Association last year. He is a member of the Baptist church choir at Hyde Park, and is a popular young man in the social life of the town. Some of the graduates who have not seen Blanton recently may be interested to know that he is six feet, two and a half inches tall, and weighs two hundred and five pounds. It is very gratifying to receive such favorable reports as we do from Superintendent Arnold of Blanton and the other boys employed by the American Company, and to know that on account of the good record which these boys have made there Mr. Arnold will always be glad to give our boys preference when there is an opening there.

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Visiting Days

Every year during the summer months we have Visiting Days, occurring near the first or latter part of each month. A day must be chosen which suits the steamboat people as well as us.

Postal cards are sent out announcing the first Visiting Day. The boys send these cards to any of their friends or relatives they wish. After the first Visiting Day cards are ready at the office to be given to the visitors announcing the next one. The first and last days have the most visitors.

We are so anxious to have the first Visiting Day arrive, after we find out when it is going to be, that the days seem to be months. Every boy is awake early in the morning, ready for the work that must be done before we can have the pleasure. As it is one of the steamers of the Nantasket Line which brings the visitors we watch and guess the name of the steamer before she arrives. It is usually the General Lincoln or the Hingham. We are generally on the move before the steamer gets this side of Castle Island. After getting dressed we line up in double rank, our Band at the head, and march down to the wharf, a selection being played by the Band as the steamer comes in.

As the steamer lands, some of the following words may be heard, "Oh, my mother is here." "There is my little brother." "I'm glad my sister has come," and many other like words of surprise and joy. Sometimes we can hear from those on the steamer such things as, "I see Johnnie," or "Frank," or "Willie," or "George." The anxiety to get nearer the objects that their eyes have searched for and at last found causes a friendly crowding of one another and an advance that would end in our ranks being broken before our exercises were finished if it were not for being checked by some of our instructors whose duty it is to keep the crowd back.

If the day is pleasant we march to the appointed place of gathering, usually on the lawn or on a large gravelly spot sloping from our flower gardens towards the main building. If it is rainy we either go into Gardner Hall, our gymnasium, or into the barn, where there are such exercises as speaking, singing and selections by the Band. Mr. Grew, one of our managers, is usually here, and he gives a word of encouragement to both boys and parents, and announces when the next Visiting Day will be. He always lives up to his words, that he does not want to detain us long, and gives the desired signal, "Break ranks." After that there is a rush to the ones who said, "I see Johnnie," "Frank," "Willie" and "George." Each boy can find his friends in the crowd of visitors.

Almost always the friends bring baskets and boxes of good things to eat. After we have our lunch, consisting of cakes, sandwiches, pies, fruits and candy, and such things, we take our friends to see our Cottage Row, our schoolrooms and work on exhibition there, our cattle and poultry, the farm, shop and Sloyd work and everything that is of interest.

The boat comes about 10.30 A. M. and goes about 1. 30 P.M. The big bell that is used to call the boys from their work and play at different times, rings ten minutes before the boat arrives, so that all may gather at the wharf in time to get aboard. Then comes the saddest part of the day, the parting. When all the visitors are on board the steamer, and the

lines have been thrown and the steamer started, we give three cheers and a tiger. Then the large steamer gives three cheers with its whistle, and usually our steamer, the PILGRIM, gives three cheers with the siren whistle, thus making in all three times three cheers for the pleasure we have had during the day. Our old steamer, the PILGRIM, which performed the duty last year of giving the last three cheers, has done so for the last time, but the same whistle will continue to do the same work on our new steamer, which takes its place, the PILGRIM.

The large steamer passes off one large bulk covered with fluttering handkerchiefs, and leaving a line of white foam as it bears our friends from us for another month. After our visitors have gone we change our clothes, and those who care for dinner have it. Then we have a game of ball or some other sports for the remainder of the day, and go to bed tired and with thoughts of what has occurred during the day.

WILLIAM I. ELLWOOD.

A Row to Long Island

A short time ago three boys and myself rowed Mr. Bradley down to Long Island in the PRISCILLA. When we left our wharf Mr. Bradley was not with us. He walked over to the North End of our Island and met us there. As it was low tide and our North End beach is rock bound we had to do lots of dodging about among the rocks so as not to damage the boat. While we were going we had the wind and tide against us. The wind, which was northeast, kept us from going very fast, but Mr. Bradley who was at the helm, kept us in the lee of the Island, which made it much easier. When we were crossing from Spectacle Island to Long Island we had a a strip of about three quarters of a mile that we could not be in the lee of any Island, so we pulled harder until we were in the lee of Long Island. There we followed up the beach until we landed at the wharf. As Mr. Bradley would not be gone long we stayed in the boat. On our way home we had it very easy as the wind and waves were with us. It did not take us long to get home.

CHAUNCEY PAGE.

Repairing the Bakery

The work of repairing the bakery, which was interrupted for work outside which needed to be done, such as repairing the wharf and floats, has now been finished. The old oven was torn down and another built in its place, made of stronger and better material. The old shelves were taken out to the shop and sandpapered and painted. New casings for the doors were made and new shelves were put in the cupboard. A large drawer was also put in. Two transoms were added, one being put over the cupboard door and one over the basement door. After all these repairs were made the walls and every part of the bakery were scrubbed and then painted a much lighter color than they were before. This makes the bakery look cleaner and lighter.

ERNEST CURLEY.

The Pilgrim's Trial Trip

Our new steamer, the PILGRIM, was launched on May 22nd and on the 26th had a trial trip to test her machinery. About three o'clock on that afternoon a boy who was watching for her saw her coming around Castle Island and ran to tell Mr. Berry. The bell was rung and all the boys left their work on the farm, in school and in every department and ran to the wharf. The Band boys got their instruments and had them ready. The large American flag had been hoisted on the flagstaff and when the PILGRIM came past, the Color Sergeant dipped the colors three times. When the steamer came past the wharf coming back she was saluted by the Band playing Dewey's March. Mr. Chamberlin was on the wharf with a camera and succeeded in getting a good picture as did also Herbert Balentine. After leaving the wharf the steamer went down the harbor near Fort Warren, past Rainsford Island and up between our Island and Spectacle, back to Lawley's. All the boys think she is a fine boat and will come up to any boat of her size. When we stood on the wharf the house boys were in their shirt sleeves and the farm boys in shirt sleeves and overalls, so we can hardly tell how we looked to those on board.

MERTON P. ELLIS.

Election of Officers for Cottage Row

Cottage Row officers are elected once in three months. A week before the election the voters hold a caucus in which are chosen the nominating committees. The Mayor chooses three boys who are to serve on the Mayor's nominating committee, and the citizens choose three boys who are to serve on the citizens' committee. These committees each nominate enough candidates to fill the offices. Both committees send in their reports to the clerk, who has the ballots printed. On the ballot, under each name, is a letter, "C" or "M," which tells by which committee that boy is nominated. Sometimes one boy is nominated by both committees. The election takes place a week after the caucus. It is held in the first school room. Each citizen takes a separate seat so that no two will be together. The ballots are then passed out. After the citizens are through voting the ballots are collected. Then the Mayor, aldermen and clerk count them. This takes quite a while. During the time the ballots are being counted the citizens take a recess. When the ballots have all been counted the meeting is called to order and the clerk reads the result of the election. First he reads the names of all the boys who were nominated, and the number of votes each received, then the names of the boys who were elected. Last of all the officers are sworn into office. The Judge swears the Mayor in and the Mayor swears the other officers into office.

William Austin.

Sunday and Wednesday Evenings

On Sunday and Wednesday evenings we have chapel exercise. At 7.15 o'clock the bugle is blown and the instructors come in. The meeting is begun by singing. Usually three songs are sung and then, on Sundays, Mr. Reed reads some scripture from the Bible and talks to the boys. On Wednesday nights Mr. Bradley talks to the boys. Then after singing again we all unite in the Lord's prayer. Then we sing one more song and march up to bed. On Sunday evenings Howard Ellis, when he was here, used to play the cornet. He was the solo cornet player of the Band. Some nights the boys are asked to repeat some verse out of the Bible, and other nights quotations which they have learned. Sometimes we are asked to repeat the names of the books of the Bible or the Ten Commandments. We can repeat a number of Psalms, too. The boys are now learning poems, three of which are "The Psalm of Life," "The Builders," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

George E. Hart.

Killing Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes bit too hard last year and kerosene did not kill enough of them to be noticed, so this year Mr. Bradley got two barrels of gas oil to see if that was better than kerosene. This oil is put in a large garden sprinkler and then spread on all the stagnant pools, so that the wigglers cannot come up through the oil to get air. They come to the surface once in every two minutes to breathe. They cannot get through the layer of oil that rests on the surface, and in a few minutes they die. We want to kill them all, but some get away. However, those that do get away will find the boys too much for them.

Charles A. Edwards.

Repairing the Cottages

All the springtime the boys are at work repairing their cottages for the summer. I own one cottage with two other boys. It is the Tritonia Cottage. The cloth in our cottage was getting old, so we thought we would get some new. The first thing we did was to take down all of the pictures and pull out all of the nails. The next thing was to brush off the old cloth good and clean. Then we started to put up the new cloth. If a cottage is large it takes about fifty or sixty yards of cloth; if it is a small cottage it takes only about thirty or forty yards. The way we get new cloth is to ask Mr. Bradley to buy it, and then he gets it for us. The cloth that we get costs us five cents a yard. There are a good many other things to fix, such as the windows, doors, curtains, chairs, table, shelves and the flagstaff. After we have the cottage done we fix the lawn, garden and plat of ground around it.

George Mayott.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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From Secretary Long

Hon. John D. Long, the Secretary of the Navy, acknowledges a copy of the BEACON sent him, in a letter which is characteristic of his courtesy and kindly nature. We feel sure that what he writes will be as interesting to all our readers as it is stimulating and encouraging to our own boys. The photograph to which he refers is a superb photograph of the Massachusetts. The picture will remain one of the most prized ornaments of the School.

The Secretary's letter is as follows;-

"Navy Dep't., Washington, May 10th, 1899.

My dear Sir:

I thank you for sending me a copy of the BEACON, and I want to express my appreciation not only of the excellence of the little sheet and of the good sentiment which it contains, but especially of the spirit of enterprise and advancement which has stimulated the boys of the Farm School to engage in so elevating an endeavor. I am glad you are setting your standards high, and that you evidently feel the importance, not only of the training which you are having, but of a high standard of conduct and of life after you shall have gone from your school into the walks of mature life. It is not of much consequence what position the citizen has. There are no high places or low places in our country, except as every true man makes a high place for himself and every unworthy one makes a low place. 'Act well your part; there all the honor lies.'

" I have asked the Chief Constructor to send you a photograph of one of our battleships, thinking you may like to hang it on the wall of some of your rooms.

Very truly yours,
JOHN D. LONG."

Our Younger Brothers

The story of the cat-hole and the kitten-hole is an old one and has been told many times, but the lesson which it teaches is so plain and practical that it is easy to understand why this, although one of the "old" stories, is ever new.

There was once a man in a country town who had a cat of which he was very proud. Not only did he declare her to be the best mouser in town, but he felt sure she had the silkiest fur, the longest whiskers and the keenest eyes. When, therefore, this remarkable ani-

mal presented her fond master with a family of kittens he provided plenty of milk and a soft bed in the kitchen that the kittens might grow up to be as fine cats as their mother.

Now in those days it was the custom in country homes to cut a little round hole near the bottom of the kitchen door, for the accommodation of the cat. A door of wood, hung on a flexible leather hinge so as to swing both ways, was fitted into the hole, and the cat quickly learned to push against this and so let herself out or in when she wished, without troubling any one to open the door for her. This was called the "cat-hole," and such a door there had long been for the convenience of the particular cat of which we write. Now, however, as the kittens began to grow large enough to walk, their owner, in his desire to provide everything he could for them, cut a smaller hole beside the large one. This he named the "kitten-hole," and fitted with its own swinging door, so as to have it ready when they should want to use it. Imagine, then, how he watched for the first day when the old cat led her children across the kitchen floor toward the door. Imagine, too, his feelings when, instead of availing themselves of their own little door, every kitten of them scampered out through the "cat-hole" after their mother.

Now that story, boys, is just as true of people as it is of cats. Children are going to follow older people just the same as kittens follow cats. You would not intentionally teach your younger brother to do wrong. Remember that he is watching you all of the time, and almost always aims to copy your actions whether you mean to be teaching him or not. Perhaps some boy who reads this says, "I have no brother, so this doesn't mean me." In a home like ours every boy is in a sense a brother to the others, and his duty to those younger than himself is just as plain as if our ties were of blood instead of association. You who are older boys, Oh, be careful what your actions teach those younger than yourselves! Be sure that many eyes are watching you, often when you do not know it, learning to copy what you are doing. Be careful of the "younger brothers," not only of their bodies, but even more of their minds and hearts and souls. As has recently been said to you by one of our most welcome visitors, "Do nothing in play or work, by yourselves, which if you saw another boy do would make you think that boy mean." Remember that if you do, some other boy, younger than you, is almost sure some day to copy you, and then you have led that boy to do a mean thing. How much pleasanter it would have been and just as easy, to set him an example which you would have been proud to have him follow!

Notes

May 1. Regular meeting of Company X.

Cleaning up Bowditch Grove.

Collection of flower seeds received from Mr. J. C. Ham.

Set out forty-five maples and Norway pines.

May 3. Dr. Osgood, of Harvard Veterinary School removed a cow's eye and operated upon Fanny, the dog.

Scow-load of freight including fertilizer towed by the tug "Luke Hoyt" from the Point.

May 4. Planted table peas, beans and corn.

Prepared land for sowing carrot seed.

Walter Carpenter left the School and began work with Mr. Alanson Hix of Berlin, Mass.

May 5. First lettuce.

Sowed carrot seed, parsnips and salsify.

Set out ten new fruit trees in the orchard.

Weeded strawberry bed; trimmed the rows and set out new plants.

Supply of flower seeds for boys' gardens received from Schlegel & Fottler.

May 6. Began to plant large potato patch.

Graduate Charles A. Lind sent music to the Band.

May 7. Sunday. First asparagus.

Manager Mr. Charles P. Curtis, Jr., called with his two sons.

May 10. Eighty odd volumes for the library received from Mrs. Sidney W. Burgess.

First Visiting Day of the season. 170 present. Managers, Mr. Tucker Daland, Secretary, and Mr. Francis Shaw present, also graduates Mr. Thomas Punchard, W. J. Trim and wife, Godfrey Meyer, Walter McKeever, Clarence W. Loud, Albert and Bennie Gerry, George E. Davis, Ove W. Clemmenson, and George Buchan.

May 11. James Russell & Son finished the steamer's boiler, tested it and shipped it to Lawley's.

May 12. Mr. Robinson from Oak Hall took measures for boys' suits.

May 14. Mr. Charles F. Fisher, who was our Sunday Assistant last year, visited us and addressed the boys in the evening.

A large photograph of the battleship "Massachusetts" given to the School by Secretary of the Navy, Hon. John D. Long.

May 15. Mr. Loring A. Chase and Prof. Louis H. Galbreath of Columbia College passed the day and night here.

May 16 Mrs G. Howland Shaw presented to the School, for use of the Band, an Eb cornet of superior tone and quality.

May 18. One inch pipe extended through the garden.

Cottage Row elected Chauncey Page as judge.

May 22. PILGRIM launched at Lawley's.

May 24. Engineering magazines received from Wm. J. Trim.

May 26. Horace Edmands here.

Trial trip of the PILGRIM.

May 27. A fine twenty-foot "knockabout" presented to the School by George Lawley & Son Corporation. This addition to our fleet has been named the WINSLOW, in honor of another of the Pilgrims and also as a compliment to the principal of the School, Miss Mary Winslow, who is a lineal descendent of Pilgrim Winslow.

May 28. Graduates Howard B. Ellis, Albert E. Gerry and Frank P. Wilcox here.

May 30. Holiday. Game of ball in the afternoon.

The band furnished music for Thos. G. Stevenson Post 26. G. A. R. of Roxbury. They went to the Point and returned by way of Marine Park Boat Service.

Heard on the Campus

The Mayor will not let BEACON reporters interview him on political affairs.

A boy who while writing his graduation essay was asked how much of it he had done, replied, "Oh, I've just got over to where Napoleon is discussing the question as to whether the United States should take the Philippine Islands."

A band boy who was asked if he was sick, or what was the matter with him that he did not eat, answered, "The thirtieth is coming. You fellows can't eat anything then if you eat too much now."

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand May 1st, 1899,	$367.41
Deposited during the month	$30.75
	$398.16
Withdrawn during the month	$14.85
Balance June 1st, 1899,	$383.31

Putting Gravel on the Wharf

The storm of November 27th, 1899, made much work for us here on the Island. Recently we have been carting gravel from the beach on to the wharf. When Mr. Mason can spare a cart he sends it down to the wharf to cart gravel. I am afternoon wharfinger and if he sends it down in the afternoon I help load the cart and tell the boy who is driving where to put it. After he has dumped the cart I level off the gravel and I help him load up the cart again. There have been about seventy loads of gravel put on so far, and it is half done now.

CHARLES HILL.

Operating

One day this spring Dr. Osgood of the Harvard Veterinary School came to the Island to operate on a cow's eye which had been sore for some time. We had to lay her on her side and tie her four legs, one of us holding down her head. There was a lot of kicking for a while. The doctor put his finger in the cow's eye and cut some of the muscles. Then he pulled the eye out and cut the rest of it. After this he washed the inside of the eye socket with boracic acid and water. Then we let the cow get up and tried to get her to go into the barn, but she would not move. So we had to help her along. After the doctor got through with the cow he operated on our dog "Fanny." She had a large bunch on her side. Since the doctor was here we wash the cow's eye and the dog's side with boracic acid and water every day. Both of them are getting along nicely.

JOHN J. IRVING.

My Visit to Lawley's

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of going to see different things at Lawley's shipyard, where our steamer is being built. Mr. Littlefield went with me. The first thing we went to see was our steamer, in which I was very much interested. We climbed up on her, walked around her cabin, noticing different things, and went inside and saw men working on the pilot house. After we had seen our steamer we went around in that same shed and looked at other boats that were being built. We next went to the machine shop and saw different men working on our engine. After we had seen the machine shop we went to the joiner shop, the paint shop and the shop where they make patterns. After we had seen the different shops we went to see the twin torpedo boats which are being built. Mr. Littlefield got some bay wood and then we came home. ERNEST W. AUSTIN

Admiral Dewey has probably one of the finest collections of butterflies in the world, the accumulations of many years in his voyages. It includes thousands of magnificent specimens, and it is said to be insured for $6,000, a sum which is only a portion of its estimated value.

Music for Decoration Day

On Memorial Day our Band played for Post 26 G. A. R, of Roxbury, the post which not long ago gave us our new flagstaff. We left the Island at 6.30 in the morning and reached the Post hall about an hour later. One of Mr. Sheldon's launches carried us over to the Point. After arriving at the hall we had a lunch and then started to march. We first went to the Eustis Street Burying Ground and there we played a dirge while the soldiers decorated the graves of the dead. From there we marched to Forest Hills Cemetery where the principal exercises were to take place. After marching through the streets for a considerable time we took cars for the cemetery, where we marched in, playing a dead march. We went to the Post music stand, where the exercises took place. The address was given by Rev. Frederick W. Hamilton, and was forcible. After the address the veterans went off in squads to decorate the graves of their late companions in arms. While they were doing this the Band played at the stand. We then marched back to the Post's hall and had dinner, and after dinner played some more, until it was time to come home. Ex-Commander Jones and Mr. McDermott, the chairman of the committee to arrange for carriages and such things came down to the Point with us. After going on board we gave three cheers for Post 26 and three more for the gentlemen who came down with us. SAMUEL F. BUTLER.

The captured Spanish cruiser Reina Mercedes arrived at the Norfolk navy yard on the afternoon of May 27th, accompanied by thirty-six tugs, all decorated with flags. The arrival was greeted with cheers from the crews of the Amphitrite, Terror, Puritan and San Francisco. She was turned over to the United States government by Captain Seymour of the Merritt, Chapman Wrecking Company.

Austria has profited by our experience in the Spanish War and now owns an ambulance ship named the "Graf Falkenhayn." It was fitted out and presented to the government by private gentlemen.

Alumni

William J. Trim, '71, who is First Assistant Engineer on the steamer Herman Winter, of the Metropolitan Line, running from Boston to New York, was one of the graduates who was with us last Visiting Day, accompanied by his wife. In writing us a few days later he says, "I enjoyed the day very much indeed, as did my better half. I only wish I could go down there every week for a month and drink a gallon of that milk. The next time I come down I shall ask Mrs. Bradley to lock me up in the dining room with a whole can of milk. The capacity of marine engineers to consume what they like is nothing short of marvelous.

"I must say you have studied the welfare of the boys to a marked degree. By the way, I have a quantity of engineering magazines that contain a great amount of information for the young and old that I will send down to you if they would be acceptable. I will also go over to the Clyde Line and get some one to bring up a mocking bird for Mrs. Bradley if she would like one. I have one that they got for me and he is a great singer. I shall make an effort to see your new boat when she comes out. I hope you will have the best of success with her."

W. L. Snow, '90, who is in Upham's grocery store, at Upham's Corner, sends a dollar for two subscriptions to the Beacon, one to renew his own and one to send a copy to the Young People's Library and Reading Room, at Upham's Corner. He writes, "I take great pleasure in each Beacon, and look forward to the time of its coming each month, knowing there will be something particularly interesting, not alone to me, but to every fellow who had the good fortune to have been at the Farm School. I am very glad the idea has been suggested for the Alumni to present the Pilgrim, which we all hope is to be the finest craft of her kind, with a full set of flags and signals."

John F. Peterson, '95, sends the record of his standing in the Lynn High School for the term just passed. It is gratifying to see that his standing in his studies has been high, while his mark for deportment has been "A" throughout the term, and he has had no absences. He has also just taken the second senior prize medal in the prize drill of the High School Battalion which was held May 5th.

Thomas J. Fairbairn, '97, in a recent letter speaking of his interest in the band in Alton, in which he plays, says, "We are preparing for Decoration Day. We have a fine band and also a good Brigade, which is going to march on that day. I am the captain." Tom encloses in his letter a very good pen picture drawn by himself, of the buildings and grounds at Fairview Farm, Alton, where his home is. Fairview is a large establishment, with many excellent buildings, and Tom's picture makes it look very pleasant.

Elbert L. West, '98, is now at work in the job printing office of Mr. George E. Dunbar, of Malden, an establishment where a high grade of work is turned out. West writes that he likes his work and thinks that he is getting along first rate.

Hiram C. Hughes, '98, who is with the firm of Irving & Casson, of Cambridge, manufacturers of fine furniture, writes, "I am getting along very nicely at my work. I attend a modeling school in the city and the superintendent of our factory gives me, along with a few others, drawing lessons. He is considered to be one of the best men at drawing in the state." Hiram closes, "I am always glad when the Beacon comes, and generally read it more than once."

Howard B. Ellis, '99, who is in the employ of Thomas J. Hind, 19 Milk Street, roofer and contractor for artificial walks, asphalt floors, water tight cellars, etc. writes, "The more I learn to do in my work the better I like it. The men are all willing to explain things and I get along very nicely with them. I think I can save a dollar or a dollar and a quarter a week, so I think I can get along nicely in that line. When I came home tonight I found the Beacon on the table and read it through and enjoyed it very much." Howard has been helping on the roof of some five story buildings, so he may be said to already be getting up in the world.

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 3. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. July 1899.

The Gift of the Graduates

On the 28th of November last, everybody who knew of and was interested in the Farm School was shocked by the news of the school's great loss in the sinking of the Steamer PILGRIM by the schooner Fred A. Emerson.

Of course we thought of and realized the other losses which the School sustained from the effects of that terrific storm, but the PILGRIM was grieved for most. Graduate met graduate and that was the general topic of conversation. The PILGRIM was mentioned first, and the damaged wharf, breakwater, telephone and other effects of the wind and water were spoken of afterward.

The steamer had always been loved by the boys, many of whom had been with her on some of her most trying trips. All knew that she was a staunch little craft and had always done her work well.

So the loss of the PILGRIM was universally understood to be a great one and we all felt that the School was in some way incomplete without another boat to fill the place of the wrecked favorite.

When we heard, therefore, that there was to be a new PILGRIM, which was to be a decided improvement on the lost steamer all were well pleased and it was suggested by one of the graduates that we might be able to make some little gift to the new boat and thereby show in a small way our appreciation of the advantages which we enjoyed at the School, express our love for our Alma Mater and the hopes which we entertain for the future of our former home and the new PILGRIM.

It was decided that a full set of flags would be an appropriate and useful gift for us to make, and measures were immediately taken to secure funds from the boys to buy a suitable set of flags for the new boat.

About thirty letters were written to as many graduates, setting forth the idea and asking all who were interested and wished to susbcribe to the fund to send the money at once. Within a short time we had the full sum necessary to buy the flags decided upon, twenty-seven in number, which consisted of a School penant, a South Boston Yacht Club flag, a yacht ensign, a Union Jack, a set of International code signals, consisting of nineteen flags for decorating and signalling purposes, and four small ensigns for the small boats.

Only boys in Boston and the immediate vicinity received letters in regard to the flags, and not all of these. Many other boys, I feel confident, would have contributed had they known of the movement, but the boys to whom we sent letters subscribed so promptly that we did not find it necessary to write to any others. Twenty-one out of the thirty to whom we sent letters made generous contributions to the fund, and some others, who for various reasons did not feel that they could subscribe at present, expressed their hearty approval of the movement and sympathy with it.

By the 25th of May all arrangements had been made, the money had been collected, and the following letter was sent to Mr. Bradley with a list of the names of the subscribers to the fund, and the money.

My dear Mr. Bradley:-

Enclosed I send you the amount subscribed by the graduates for the purpose of furnishing the new steamer PILGRIM with a set of colors suitable to the Farm School.

We cannot but realize the advantages we had at the School, and we trust that you will accept this little token which we offer in acknowledgment and as a proof of our appreciation.

Be assured that the boys make this small gift most heartily, and our sincere good wishes to the School go with it.

We trust that the flags will be durable and substantial, that the boat will in every way prove satisfactory, and we remain

Very truly yours.

That is the way which the plan was started and carried through. Following are extracts from a few of the letters which we received from the boys in response to the letters which we wrote them in regard to the matter.

The way in which the boys made their contributions, the hearty letters which accompanied the same and the promptness of the replies show better than can be expressed in words the love of the boys for the School and the old PILGRIM, their sincere wishes for the best good of their former home, and their willingness to help any movement which will in any way benefit it or better its standing.

One boy writes:-

My dear Will:-

I received your letter and I thank you for giving me a chance to help buy the flags. You will please find enclosed my subscription. I hope I am not too late in answering your letter. Trusting that this reaches you in time, I remain

Yours sincerely.

An old class mate writes:-

Dear Will:-

Have received your letter and was very glad to hear from you. I think that it is a good plan to show in a little way our appreciation for what the School has done for us.

Your friend and class mate,

Another says:-

Dear William:-

I received your letter yesterday P. M. It was a misfortune,- the fate of the PILGRIM. I am glad there is to be a new steamer as I don't think the School would be complete without one. Please enclosed find money to the amount of —.

With best wishes, I am yours sincerely,

One of the older boys writes:-

My dear Cummings:-

Your note received just as I was leaving the office this evening. The idea of presenting flags to the School for its boats is a very happy thought and I take much pleasure in enclosing my "widow's mite." Wishing you success in all your undertakings believe me Very trnly yours,

The following was one of the most pleasing.

Friend Will:-

Am much pleased to hear that some of the graduates have started such a noble cause. I am always looking for chances to help in any way that which may prove a benefit to the home which I have always loved. I think it a very good idea and am glad to help it along. I remit in this letter — which I give most heartily with the thought that we, as graduates, will feel proud of our new steamer and its set of colors.

Wishing you all success in your object, I remain as ever sincerely yours,

The boat is now finished and floating. It is a bright and pleasing sight to see her steaming down the harbor with her full set of gay and gorgeous colors flying, but it is more pleasing to consider that all that beauty of fresh bright color is expressive of the love and hearty good wishes of the graduates for the School which has been a pleasant home for all of us in the years that are gone. WILLIAM G. CUMMINGS.

Feeding Elephants in India

Elephants in the Indian army are fed twice a day. When meal-time arrives, they are drawn up in line before a row of piles of food. Each animal's breakfast includes ten pounds of raw rice, done up in five two-pound packages. The rice is wrapped in leaves, and then tied with grass. At the command, "Attention!" each elephant raises its trunk, and a package is thrown into its capacious mouth. By this method of feeding not a single grain is wasted.

Graduation Day Programme

SELECTION

BAND

SALUTATORY *The Development of Literature*

THOMAS BROWN

ESSAY *The Crusades*

FRANK W. HARRIS

SELECTION *When the Moonbeams Fall at Evening*

CLASS BAND

ESSAY *Blacksmithing*

CHAUNCEY PAGE

CORNET SOLO *Prismatic Polka*

ERNEST W. AUSTIN

DEBATE *Question:—"Resolved that the Philippine Islands should be Annexed to the United States."*

DISPUTANTS { Aff. WILLIAM DAVIS
Neg. SAMUEL F. BUTLER

DECLAMATION *Toussaint L'Overture*

WILLIAM AUSTIN

TROMBONE SOLO *Let All Obey*

CHAUNCEY PAGE

CLASS PROPHECY

ERNEST W. AUSTIN

VALEDICTORY *"Step By Step"*

HENRY F. MCKENZIE

PARTING ODE

CLASS

GALOP *Hurry Up*

CLASS BAND

ADDRESS

MR. HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Mr. Saltonstall's Address

After Mr. Butterworth's address to the Graduating Class, Mr. Saltonstall President of the Board of Managers was introduced and asked to present the diplomas. He spoke to us about our Managers and our choice of positions in life. He spoke about the class motto which he said would have to be our way in life, that we could not reach the high positions all at once, but that we must work for them as every body else has to. He told us that our managers were all hard working men and though they did not always visit us on our holidays they nevertheless keep an interest in us all and although we cannot see it they are working for us. In speaking of the positions we were to take after we left the school he said that we should not take a certain position because we think we can make more money out of it and rise in the business quicker but to take the one we are specially adapted to and make up our minds as to that one and work at it. After giving us this talk he declined the awarding of the diplomas saying that he preferred that Mr. Bradley should do that as he did not know the boys as intimately as Mr. Bradley did. SAMUEL F. BUTLER.

Hunting Eggs

Saturday Mr. Berry took us out to hunt for blackbirds', crows' and English sparrows' eggs. First we went along the beach road to South End. We left two or three squads along the way to look over the groves, Spruce Ridge and Oak Knoll. We went over to Bowditch Grove to hunt, then Mr. Berry had a small boy stand at each tree and look it over and see if there were any nests in it, if there were he was to call a large boy and he would go up and see what was in it. We did not find much at the South End so we went to the North End to see if we could find any thing there. We found some empty nests and some robins' nests but nothing else. I went up three trees and got an empty nest every time. HERBERT E. BALENTINE.

Planting Corn

Some of the farm boys with Mr. Walker planted the corn this spring. The corn and potatoes are between Cottage Row and Bowditch Grove. When we are going to plant corn Mr. Walker, takes two or three boys, and a cart with some bags of phosphate and some corn in it over to the corn piece where the rows have been marked out. First a boy takes a pail of phosphate and puts a small handful about every two and a half feet, then another boy takes a quart measure of corn and puts a little dirt over the phosphate with his foot and then drops five kernels of corn on top of the dirt where the phosphate is. Then Mr. Walker and a boy come along with their hoes and cover the corn.

DANIEL LAIGHTON.

The more I saw of foreign lands, the more I loved my own. *De Belloy.*

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.

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Make the Most of Your Chances

By J. L. Harbour

There is no doubt about it; it is "as true as preaching" that a large majority of the men of to-day who count for the most in the world, who fill the high places, and who are the most useful, begin life at the foot of the ladder. Many of them were the children of such hard-working parents that, in their boyhood, they went without shoes the greater part of the year and anything like luxury was unknown to them. The average boy of to-day spends more for things to amuse him than the boys of half a century ago spent for clothing.

No one wants or expects the boys of our day to live as the boys of long ago lived. No one argues that going ragged and barefooted adds to one's mental vigor or increases one's chances of success in life; but some "old fogy fellows" are of the opinion that the desire to simply have a good time dominates a good many boys of our day and keeps them from being the bright and useful men they might be if they made the right effort. We incline to this opinion, that many of the boys of to-day look with utter indifference upon golden opportunities that some of the boys of long ago would have seized with delight and made the most of immediately.

Every true and loyal American is proud of the fact that an humble start in life is not an insurmountable barrier to the highest positions of trust and honor in our country, and it ought to encourage every boy when he reflects on the fact that many of the men who are highest in public trust and confidence to-day began life with no capital but themselves.

When we hear men, and particularly young and healthy men, attributing their failures to the fact that they had "no chance in life," we call to mind these words of a noted American in an address to young men: "No outfit, no capital to start with? Young man, go down to the library and get some books, and read of what wonderful mechanism God gave you in your hand, your foot, in your eye, in your ear, and then ask some doctor to take you into the dissecting room and illustrate to you what you read about, and never again say that you have no capital to begin with. Equipped? Why, the poorest young man is equipped as only the God of the whole universe could afford to equip him.

The 'chances' of the most successful men in the history of the world were no better than yours when they began life for themselves. They asked for no better equipment than the health and strength with which God has blessed them. If God has thus blessed you it is unmanly, it is sinful for you to feel that you have no 'chance' because you have not worldly wealth with which to begin your undertakings. Chance will play a small part in your career if you make full use of the capital God has given you in a strong body and a clear brain.

'What capital did you have with which to begin this wonderful enterprise?' was asked of an immensely wealthy man who was at the head of a commercial enterprise which gave employment to more than six hundred men and women.

'What capital?' was the reply. 'These,' and he held out his two hands. 'I earned the first ten dollars I ever possessed sawing wood in a wood yard.' Is not your capital equal to that of this man? The way to make the most of life is not to find fault with the conditions it has imposed upon you, but it is to make the most of those conditions."

Again one of our staff has been selected for broader fields of labor, this time Mr. Max B. Thrasher for the past year and a half Assistant Superintendent. He enters the employ of the Tuskeegee Institute under Mr. Booker T. Washington, the colored educator and acknowledged leader of his race. Mr. Thrasher is well fitted for his new position, as literary agent and writer, if we may call it that, and we wish him the best of success and happiness and sincerely congratulate Mr. Washington upon securing his services.

Notes

June 1. Mr. Loring A. Chase formerly of Boston but for the past twenty years or more a business man and philanthropist of Chicago came to spend a few weeks in studying our methods.

June 3. Boys had their first swim in the salt water.

Secretary Mr. Tucker Daland and Manager Mr. I. Tucker Burr passed the afternoon at the school and tried the knockabout "Winslow."

June 4. Sunday. Miss Gertrude E. Camp a former teacher passed the day here.

June 5. Chaplin Roswell Randall Hoes who was attached to the Iowa during the storming of Cervera's fleet, passed the afternoon here and gave a most interesting and graphic account of that achievement and other incidents of the Spanish-American War.

June 7. First shower since May 11.

June 8. Visiting Day. 139 present. Vice-President Eben Bacon and Manager Mr. Caleb A. Curtis present also Mr. Richard C. Humphreys and graduates Thomas Punchard and William B. Winters.

Second trial trip of the PILGRIM in the afternoon and she was tied up at our wharf for the first time.

June 10. Herbert A. Hart began work for Stone & Webster, electrical engineers, 4 Post Office Square, Boston.

June 12. Thomas Fairbairn finished work for Mr. Wm. P. Peabody of Alton, N. H. and for the present is here.

June 16. School closed with graduation exercises in the afternoon. Mr. Hezekiah Butterworth and the President of the Board of Managers, Mr. Richard M. Saltonstall addressed the class. Among the others present were Mr. Richard C. Humphreys, Mr. John R. Morse, and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Willis, Miss Foley, Mr. and Mrs. Zenas Sears, Rev. James Huxtable, Dr. W. B. Bancroft, Miss Helen M. Winslow, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sawyer, Mrs. E. P. Upham and Miss Irene G. Hersey.

June 17. Teachers left for vacation.

Forty graduates whose names follow and Dr. F. E. Allard, a former teacher, made a trip on the PILGRIM in the morning visiting the war ships and the upper harbor and after a

lunch here and a meeting of the Alumni, passed the remainder of the day in games on the campus.

Arthur Austin	Fred G. Hitchcock
George Buchan	Clarence W. Loud
John A. Buttrick	John A. Lundgren
John E. Bete	Edwin L. Marshall
George A. Bennett	Walter McKeever
Frank G. Bryant	Godfrey Myers
Ernest E. Clattenburg	John W. O'Neil
William G. Cummings	William J. Pedgrift
George E. Davis	Clifford M. Pulson
Howard B. Ellis	Herbert A. Pulson
Harry A. English	John F. Peterson
Clarence Estes	William I. Peabody
William F Galeucia	John M. Scott
Albert E. Gerry	William A. Scott
Benjamin F. Gerry	Algine B. Steele
Herbert A. Hart	William L. Snow
George K. Hartman	Selwyn G. Tinkham
Alden B. Hefler	George M. Taylor
William A. Horsfall	Elbert L. West
Hiram C. Hughes	William B. Winters

June 19. Company A composed of twenty-five boys went into camp on Oak Knoll.

June 20. Vice-president Eben Bacon and daughter, Treasurer Mr. Alfred Bowditch and Mrs. Bowditch made us a call.

June 24. Band and delegation of Co. X attended the Suffolk County Convention of Loyal Temperance Legions at Winthrop.

Mr. Frederick W. Leavitt, formerly Sunday Assistant passed the night here. Mr Leavitt has finished his course at the Andover Theological Seminary and goes to his native state Nebraska where he has accepted a call to preach in a parish near his old home.

June 26. Treasurer Mr. Alfred Bowditch and Mrs. Bowditch accompanied by Mrs. M. C. Mallory and Mrs. L. A. Cullis passed the afternoon here.

Henry F. McKenzie went to live with Mrs. E. A. Williams of Topsham, Maine, where he will have the opportunity to enter High School this fall.

Company A, Camp Bowditch, was succeeded by Company B.

June 30. William Davis left the school to live with his friends in Dorchester, and will commence the year in the High School.

We are indebted to Mr. S. J. Donovan of the Columbian Dredging Co., for the use of a tow boat which he kindly placed at our disposal one day last month.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand June 1st, 1899,	$383.31
Deposited during the month	$25.13
	$408.44
Withdrawn during the month	$22.45
Balance July 1st, 1899,	$385.99

Loyal Temperance Legion Convention

A short time ago Miss Wright, our Company Superintendent and thirty-nine members of Company X including the band with Mr. Bradley attended the L. T. L. Convention at Winthrop. We left the Island in the PILGRIM at 9.30 for Winthrop Yacht Club and arrived there about ten o'clock. Then we marched to the Winthrop Steamboat landing where different companies of the temperance boys and girls were assembled. From there we escorted the entire delegation to Alphelion Hall where the exercises were held. Mrs. F. C. Loomis of Boston presided at the meeting, and Rev. F. M. Gardner of South Boston opened the exercises by a short prayer. Reports of the different companies were given showing that better work is being done in this line. It has been the custom for a long time to award prizes to the two companies who could present the largest number of membership fees before the first of May. This year Company X won the first prize, a banner made of red satin and beautifully ornamented. On one side was painted "MASS, L. T. L. Suffolk Div., Prize Banner 1899" on the other side "We are the Hope of the Nation." The second prize was won by Co. M, South Boston and it was a large American flag. Mr. Tilton of Co. R, Chelsea was elected President and I was elected Vice-President. Meeting adjourned at 12.45. We enjoyed the outing very much.

FREDERICK HILL, Pres., Company X.

Graduation Exercises

On June 16 the class of '99 graduated. The exercises were held in the first school room at 3 P. M. The graduating class and distinguished guests were seated in the front of the room and the relatives of the boys in the rear. The exercises were very interesting especially the Class Prophesy. After the class exercises were over excellent addresses were given by Mr. Butterworth and Mr. Saltonstall, President of the Board of Managers. After the exercises were over the class took their relatives out to the shop to see their progress in sloyd work; and to choose a model from what the boy had made to take away with them. At about five o'clock the boat came and took the visitors away.

THOMAS BROWN.

Graduation

Most of the boys who had essays to write started them in the middle of April and we had our graduation exercises June 16. The exercises lasted an hour and a half and after they were over and after the friends had left the class assembled on the lawn and had their pictures taken. There are eight in the class. Thomas Brown, Frank W. Harris, Henry F. McKenzie, William Davis, Samuel F. Butler, Ernest W. Austin, Chauncey Page and William Austin. We all enjoyed the day very much because so much was done to make it pleasant. We all hope to be prosperous in the future as Mr. Butterworth and others who were here on the occasion wished for us.

HENRY F. MCKENZIE.

Packing away Blankets

All through the winter months the boys have three double blankets on their beds. About the first of April Miss Brewster has the dormitory boys take off the top blankets. When we get them off we put them in the hall. Then the laundry boys come up and take them to the laundry and wash them. After they are washed and ironed they are sent to the sewing room to be looked over. After that they are sent to Miss Brewster again and we pack them away for the next winter.

ALFRED LANAGAN.

The Decorations of Graduation Day

As our Island has many beautiful flowers not only those that we raise in our gardens but those that grow wild all over the Island, they were very handy and proper things to use for the decoration of our schoolroom. At the front where the boys were to speak their pieces was a row of flowers which went the width of the room. There were daisies, buttercups, peonies and roses each of which were put in large tubs which were covered with pretty paper. The large desk and piano had vases of pinks and other flowers, all this not only made the room look pretty but made it smell very nice. On the three blackboards that were used we had pinned our school work such as drawings, and writing. Some of the boys drew with colored chalk on the board. One boy drew some roses the roses being red and the leaves green, another had a picture of an old pump which had a tub to catch the water as it was pumped up, another an artist's placque in the centre of which was printed in fancy letters "The Class of '99." Although graduation day is past we can still see the flowers and other pretty things which helped to decorate our schoolroom.

CHAUNCEY PAGE.

Presentation of Diplomas

The time looked forward to on graduation day by the graduating class is the receiving of the diplomas. You might ask why they should look forward to that as long as they get their diplomas. The diploma is the principal thing but there is some thing that goes with it at the same time and that is Mr. Bradley's encouraging words to us which we are so grateful for that we cannot express our feelings toward him. Not only are there grammar school diplomas but there are sloyd and blacksmithing diplomas which were given out this year for the first time and will in after life be a source of pleasure to the boy or boys who receive them. The diplomas are printed here and are good samples of the work which is done by the FARM SCHOOL PRESS. They are signed by the President of the Board of Managers and the Superintendent of the School. WILLIAM DAVIS.

Alumni

Selwyn G. Tinkham, '98, who is with the Plymouth Cordage Company, writes "I like my work first rate and am getting along fairly well. I was striking for six months, but now I am at the forge. Striking is a good deal different from what one would think, as the man I strike for, Mr. Anderson, can make a good many things by using different tools. I do all the striking and he will not use his hammer at all. They have got quite a start on the new factory they are going to put up. It is just opposite the present factory and when completed will just about double the running capacity. They now run over 800 spinners and there are to be 700 in the new mill. The factory has been running night and day steady for over a year. When the new mill is completed they will stop night work."

Alumni Day

After a trip up the harbor from the Park Pier landing, a good view of the monster boats which did the work at Santiago and which Cervera will always remember, a visit to the Life Saving Station in Dorchester Bay, and landing at the School from the bran new steamer Pilgrim with all her colors flying, some forty of the graduates of the Farm School sat down to a plenteous lunch served at two o'clock in the old dining room where we had all sat so many times before, and all partook most heartily.

Lunch finished, we retired to the school room and after some hearty, stirring old favorite college songs with Mrs. Bradley at the piano, we settled down to business and the reorganization of the Farm School Alumni Association of Boston, which for some time has, for various reasons, been rather inactive. Mr. Bradley has always been deeply interested in the success of the association, and he introduced Dr. Allard, who was principal of the school some years ago, and he with Loring A. Chase, Esquire, a gentleman interested in the school, both of whom are acquainted with the work of organizing such associations, gave us some valuable advice in regard to our undertaking.

Finally a committee of three was chosen to act for the Association with the full powers of all the old officers and instructions to bring in a plan of proceedure. This committee will meet at an early date and present its plans to the Association as soon as possible. The head of this committee, known as the Secretary, is the chief executive of the Association, and the other two members are to assist him. Their respective duties shall be determined by themselves at their first meeting. Its members are, William G. Cummings, '98 Secretary, William L. Snow, '90, and John F. Peterson, '96,

This business finished, a game of ball was played, and finally, with cheers many and hearty we boarded the steamer and were soon back in Boston.

A word of praise and satisfaction must be said for the Pilgrim. The expectations and hopes of the most fastidious have been fulfilled, and she is a model little craft. So say all the boys who were aboard her the 17th of June.

William G. Cummings.

Alumni Notice

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association wishes to give notice that the Thompson's Island Beacon will be used as its official organ through which notices of meetings and other important communications will hereafter be made.

William G. Cummings, Secretary.

What Others Say of the Beacon

Hon. Thomas Hills in renewing his subscription to the Beacon writes, "I am much pleased to note that the tone of the paper has been kept up. Every number is as fresh and bright as that with which its issue started."

In an editorial of the *Boston Herald* of June 14 it says- "There isn't a more interesting publication in amateur journalism than the Thompson's Island Beacon, which is written, edited and printed by the boys at the Farm School down the harbor. Its sketches of life at the school, the counsel it gives to the boys and its items of news connected with the institution are all interesting, pertinent and well put. We lift our best hat to this harbor Beacon."

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 4. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. August 1899.

Mr. Butterworth's Address

During the graduation exercises after the class band had played their last piece, Mr. Bradley introduced Mr. Hezekiah Butterworth, the story writer, to speak to the boys. At first he went through each different part of the exercise complimenting each boy on his part. The first and last boys that spoke had in their essays quotations from Longfellow's "St. Augustine's Ladder" and the "Psalm of Life." He had the boys repeat the "Psalm of Life" and he repeated "St. Augustine's Ladder." He told us of a time when Longfellow was summoned before the Queen of England and he had a very fine time. When he was leaving the palace in his carriage, a hard-working Englishman came up to him and said, "Are you this great poet Longfellow?" He answered, "My name is Longfellow and I am a poet." "Then," said the Englishman, "will you allow a hard-working man to shake your hand?" Longfellow said, "Certainly" and then they shook hands. Longfellow said that he had never received so great a compliment in his whole life. Just before that he was in the palace of the Queen and every thing was golden and beautiful, but he said those things were nothing to this.

Next he told us the story of Sir William Phipps who was born in Maine, one of a family of twenty-six children. He had heard of a town named Boston and he wanted to get there. He got a vessel and loaded it with lumber and was starting out on a voyage when there was a great Indian massacre and all the women and children came flocking to him and asked him to throw away his lumber and take them aboard. He did this and took the people to Boston. When he got to Boston he met a widow who taught him to read and write. After a while he heard of some sunken treasure ships from Spain. He went to King James and asked him to fit him out with vessels and he would try to find them and give the money to King James. He got the vessels and started out, but the men mutinied against him and he came back and married the widow. Next he went to the Duke of Albemarle and asked him for ships and men; he got them and started out again. He got to the place where he thought they were and sent a diver down. The diver came up with a bag which they split open with an axe and a lot of gold coins rolled out on the deck. The divers kept on until they got it all up and the ship's deck was strewn with gold. The men then asked him to keep the money himself but he refused, and he carried it all back to the Duke. There were $2,500,000. The Duke gave him $100,000 and his wife a golden cup valued at $2,500. He came back home and bought a mansion in "the fair green lane of Boston Town." That is the way this man earned his way step by step.

If Mr. Butterworth had carried his interesting story a few steps further he would have found his hero, Sir William Phipps, the Colonial Governor, and later on, in 1814, this spacious mansion at the corner of Salem and Charter Streets which had in the olden times witnessed the pomp of royalty, purchased by the Managers of this home where the school was located until Thompson's Island was purchased in 1832 and the school removed here.

Mr. Butterworth's last visit to the School was about eight years ago. No boy is here now who was present at that time. We have all his latest books in our library and they are all very interesting. "Zigzag Journeys" are read by the

boys as much as any others. We thought if we could see and hear the author we would like it very much, and we did He was expected down here sometime, but we did not think it would be on graduation day. Our class of '99 feel highly honored and grateful to him for being here and speaking to us as he did.

WILLIAM AUSTIN.

Awarding the Prizes

On July 19 the Shaw Cash and Temple Consolation Prizes were given out to the fifteen boys who had the least number of marks and had been in the first grade the largest number of weeks for the previous six months. Before the prizes were given out Mr. Bradley spoke of the giving of prizes for some of the boys who did not know about it. The Shaw prizes are given by Mr. Francis Shaw, one of our Managers, who kindly gives twenty-five dollars every half year to the ten boys who stand highest in the grade of the whole school for the half year. When Mr. Bradley spoke to Mr. Temple, also one of our Managers, about the money prize for the grade, Mr. Temple asked what became of the boys who came near getting the prize but just missed; Mr. Bradley said they received nothing. Mr. Temple said when he was at school he was one who almost got the prize, and so he said he would provide for some of the boys who got left, for which the boys are very thankful. Every six months he gives five good books to the boys who stand next to the boys who get the money prizes. When the prizes are given out they are given in order from the first to the fifteenth. This time the first boy didn't get a check for the whole twenty-six weeks and he received five dollars; the next, three dollars and twenty-five cents and so on down to one dollar. The books given out which are all good ones are, "The Days Work," "Navy Blue," "From School to Battlefield," "When Knighthood was in Flower" and "When Boston Braved the King." There are five boys who got honorable mention and although they did not get any thing they hope to do better next time and so do the other boys.

CARL A. H. MALM.

The Horribles

Every Fourth of July it is the custom for the boys to get up a parade of horribles and the Island Pleasure Association was responsible for the sight this year. Directly after our breakfast the boys that were going to take part in it went down to the old barn where the old rags and junk are, to fix themselves up in time to get on the campus by the time the instructors had finished their breakfast. Each boy dressed up as funny as he could and each had different false faces. Some boys carried signs. One boy had one that said, "The Horseless Carriage," and he was driving the oxen and cart. Another boy had one that read, "An Educated Pig," and he was carrying a little pig. When we got to the house some of the boys could not tell who some of the horribles were they were dressed so funny. After we marched around we halted in front of the gymnasium and Herbert Balentine took our pictures; we wonder that he has been able to take any since. After that we marched back and took off our make-ups and then came up to the house and had a very nice time the rest of the day.

CHARLES B. BARTLETT.

Boats That Drift on the Beach

Once in a great while boats that do not belong to us drift in onto our Island. Those that do are mostly of the poorer class of boats which we call dories or clammie-skiffs, and in these we generally find whiskey bottles or something else that gives us the idea that these boats were not tied up at their proper place of anchorage. A few weeks ago a sloop which appeared to be a fairly good boat named Mina came ashore on the east side of the Island. In this boat were a few men who had been drinking and were unable to manage it. They did not get the boat off and had to go home without it. A week later they came and after many unsuccessful attempts to pull her off were at last able to do so. The boats that we think are of no use and cannot find owners for are taken to the lumber yard and chopped for firewood.

CHAUNCEY PAGE.

Drilling at Camp

Our best exercise at camp was drilling. Each squad was taught the drill by Mr. Reed. We had drill three times a day, in the morning, afternoon and evening. After roll-call the order to count fours was given, both ranks counting at once. We went through port arms, present arms, right shoulder arms and trail arms. When we first began to drill we had the setting up exercises. Companies C and D had the bayonet drill, too. The commands in this drill are right and left parry, right and left low parry and head parry. Thrust and lunge were also given for each parry. This drill looked very pretty after we learned it. Company D was the only one to have the extended order. Most of the boys liked this drill better than the bayonet drill. This is the order which is used in battle. When the order "As skirmishers, March!" was given, the whole company came into one long line. When the command was given "Rally by squads!" the corporal of each squad stood where he wanted his fellows to rally and gave the order to rally. They all would come in a half circle around him. This is used to keep off the cavalry in battle. Then at the order, "As skirmishers, March!" the squads would come into line. We had such movements as company rally, charge, by the right and left flank march. July 15 all the Companies came over to camp to drill for a prize. Company D won the prize. Companies C, A and B came in the order named.

DANA CURRIER.

Some of our Pictures

A short time ago Miss Winslow put some pictures on a rack in the second schoolroom. These pictures were photographs from some of Edwin Landseer's paintings, one of the greatest animal painters that ever lived. Edwin Landseer was born in England in 1802 and when he became fourteen years of age, some of his drawings of animals were put on exhibition. You may know that he was a great painter, for in 1850 Queen Victoria gave him the title of Sir and he became a knight. When he was going to paint a picture he would go for miles to find the animals he was going to paint so that he could get just the way the animal looked. One of his paintings is of his two dogs and himself. He has got the palette upon which he paints, the dogs are looking over as sort of judges. They think they can tell if he makes a mistake. Another one of his paintings is a sick monkey. The old monkey has a young sick one in his arms while one of the other old monkeys is sitting on something in the background eating a cocoanut.

CHARLES F. SPEAR.

The Ducks

Recently a lady gave Mr. Bradley four Muscovy ducks and one drake. There is one good thing about them, and that is, they don't quack. They do not like to swim very much, but when they get into the water they wash themselves and then come around the hen house to get dry. They are a sort of blackish green color and white. The drake is about twice the size of the other ducks. He goes fighting with the hens and he pulls their feathers and they go running off mad. We expect to raise some ducks this year. We feed them on corn mush and oats, besides what they get out in the fields.

JOHN T. LUNDQUIST.

Watering the Trees

This spring we have planted a good many small trees. To keep the small trees alive we must give them plenty of water. We don't carry water with a pail because it is too far to carry it from the barn. The way we do is to take a team and put three or four barrels in it. Then we take a small piece of hose and having fastened it onto the faucet, take the other end and put it into the barrel and fill it up. After they are all full we take the water to where the trees are planted, take a bucket and dip water out of the barrels and put it carefully at the bottom of the trees. We put two or three buckets on each tree. If it is dry weather we water the trees every day for two weeks.

GEORGE MAYOTT.

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VICE-PRESIDENT.
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WALTER HUNNEWELL,
FRANCIS SHAW,
JOHN E. THAYER,
THOMAS F. TEMPLE.

CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

The object and methods of the Farm School have been so fully set forth in previous numbers of the BEACON, in our Reports, and in various other ways, that it is not necessary to repeat them here. Whether that object has been attained our record shows. We are willing to be judged by it. If it has been attained it is because the Management and friends of the School have shown a devotion to its interest as constant as it is inspiring.

It is believed by many, we learn, that the resources of the Farm School are sufficient for the demands made upon them. This is not correct. Excellent as are the means already at the command of the School its field of usefulness could be immensely widened. The fact that some interested friends give freely and often does not make the gifts of others any the less helpful. With the record which the Farm School has made, then, we do not hesitate to ask for money for current expenses, for any special purpose which may please the giver, or to be used as an addition to our endowment fund.

It may be that some one who reads this may think he would like nothing better than to help such a deserving cause, but however strong that desire is he is unable to do the thing which seems to him worth an effort. We would suggest to such an one that he may be more helpful than he knows simply by bringing the subject to the attention of those who are blessed with more financially than they need for their own pleasures and necessaries of life and may be looking for just such an opportunity to do good. Every little helps, so do not wait for a chance to speak with a millionaire; try to make all you meet understand how worthy a cause it is, and if an alumnus, your moral and social standing will go far toward impressing this upon their minds.

Notes

July 1. Through the kindness of Mr. Wm. H. Porter of Cambridge, Miss Ida M. Cahill, an euloctionist, with her class of young people came and gave the boys a very pleasant time with music and recitations. Mr. S. B. Hubbard who is connected with the school board of Cambridge was one of the party.

July 3. Company B, Camp Bowditch, succeeded by Company C.

John A. Lundgren here for a short time.

July 4. Holiday. Usual sports and races

Fireworks in the evening.

We are indebted to Thos. G. Stevenson Post 26, G. A. R. of Roxbury, for a generous contribution toward fireworks.

July 7. Visiting Day. 230 present, among whom were Manager Mr. Francis Shaw, Mr. Benjamin Pettee, Mr. J. C. Tibbitts and graduates George Buchan and Albert E. Gerry.

Meeting of the citizens of Cottage Row. The following officers were elected. Mayor, Dana Currier; aldermen. Charles McKay, George Mayott and Frederick F. Burchsted; assessor, George Thomas; street commissioner, John J. Conklin; chief of police. Samuel W. Webber; jury, George Thomas, Frederick Hill, Charles F. Spear, Richard N. Maxwell, Charles McKay, Edward C. Crowell and John J. Conklin. The mayor appointed as clerk, Charles Hill; curator, William C. Carr; librarian, Herbert E Balentine; treasurer, Axel E. Renquist; janitor, Charles Spear. The chief of police appointed as patrolmen, Joseph A. Carr and Edward C. Crowell.

July 8. To make our set of colors complete Dr. W. B. Bancroft sent us a physician's flag which will be displayed whenever the Doctor is on board one of our boats.

July 10. Company C, Camp Bowditch, succeeded by Company D.

July 12. Mr. Eben Bacon and Treasurer Mr. Alfred Bowditch of the Board of Managers and William Allen Hayes, Esq. were here for a part of the day.

Mr. P. J. Hutchinson, a graduate of '65, passed a part of the afternoon at the School.

July 13. First new potatoes.

July 14. Package of literature received from Mrs. Jordan of Andover.

July 15. Saturday. Being the last week day in camp the four companies spent the afternoon and evening together. A competitive drill took place in the afternoon in which Company D carried off the laurels. A bonfire and band concert were participated in, in the evening.

July 16. Howard B. Ellis called.

July 17. Broke camp.

Summer term of school began.

July 18. Cornelius James Pratt entered the School.

July 20. A party of Boston friends among whom were Mrs. Roger Wolcott, Manager Mr. Francis Shaw, Mr. Benjamin Pettee and Hon. Richard C. Humphreys passed a part of the day here.

July 21. Richard Bell, superintendent of the Walter M. Lowney Co., passed the day here with his family, also Mr. Morse and daughter Mabel.

Several boys whose eyes were troubling them visited the Mass. Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary on Charles Street.

July 22. Albert E. Pratt left the School to live with Mr. Alex. Lynnes, Highlandville, Mass.

July 23. William Winters visited the School.

July 24. George W. Byers and sister called.

The Pilgrim towed the first scow load of dressing from Walworth's.

July 25. Harry Hemenway Todd entered the School.

July 26. A welcome shower.

William L. Snow called.

First green corn from our garden.

A bronze name plate "Erected by Thomas G. Stevenson Post 26, G. A. R. and Woman's Relief Corps 63, Dec. 15, 1897. Flag by Nelson A. Miles Camp 46, S. of V." placed on the flag staff.

July 28. The Columbian Dredging Co. began dredging out the basin between the wharf and breakwater and deepening the channel to it.

Graduates P. J. Hutchinson of Cambridge and W. W. Hutchinson and family of Racine, Wisconsin spent the afternoon here.

Former Asst. Supt., Max Bennett Thrasher visited the School and reported on several of the graduates whom he had recently visited in Vermont and New Hampshire. He was accompanied by Sumner W. Parker of E. Westmoreland, N. H., and Orra H. H. Becker, the latter remaining at the School. Mr. Parker took Henry W. Chickering back with him.

July 29. William Mourey left the School to live with his mother at 55 Oak Terrace, Haverhill, Mass.

July 30. First ripe tomatoes.

July 31. Frank Burgess visited the School.

The literature previously mentioned in the Beacon as having been received from Dr. G. S. Reed should have been credited to Dr. Thomas G. Reed, 455 Broadway, So. Boston, whose contribution it was.

Rank in Classes

The list of boys ranking first in their classes for the spring term was as follows;

First Class	Henry F. McKenzie
Second "	William I. Ellwood
Third "	George Thomas
Fourth "	Charles F. Spear
Fifth "	Samuel A. Waycott
Sixth "	George A. McKenzie

Membership of Classes

The membership of the several classes for the coming year is as follows:

First Class.

Herbert E. Balentine	William I. Ellwood
John F. Barr	Frederick Hill
Ernest Curley	John T. Lundquist
Dana Currier	Carl A. H. Malm

Second Class

Clarence W. Barr	Daniel W. Laighton
Charles B. Bartlett	Alfred Lanagan
George F. Burke	George G. Noren
John J. Conklin	William M. Roberts
Edward C. Crowell	Charles W. Russell
Charles A. Edwards	Charles A. Taylor
George E. Hart	George Thomas
Charles Hill	Fred W. Thompson
Charles W. Jorgensen	Thomas W. Tierney
Albert H. Ladd	Samuel W. Webber

Third Class

Charles A. Blatchford	Michael J. Powers
Frederick F. Burchsted	Arthur I. Purdy
Joseph A. Carr	Axel E. Renquist
Henry W. Chickering	John W. Robblee
Edward L. Davis	Chester O. Sanborn
Howard L. Hinckley	Frank C. Simpson
Warren Holmes	Charles F. Spear
Harry H. Leonard	Edward B. Taylor
George Mayott	Harold S. Taylor
Charles McKay	Frederick P. Thayer
Robert McKay	Frederick L. Walker
Louis E. Means	Samuel A. Waycott
William Mourey	Clarence W. Wood
Daniel Murray	

Fourth Class

Don C. Clark	Walter D. Norwood
Andrew W. Dean	Phillippe J. Parent
James A. Edson	John J. Powers
William Flynn	Joseph E. Robblee
George E. Hicks	C. Newton Rowell
Barney Hill	Willard H. Rowell
Ralph Holmes	John Tierney
Elmer A. Johnson	Lester H. Witt
William May	Carl L. Wittig

Fifth Class

Ralph O. Anderson	William C. Morgan
Walter L. Butler	C. James Pratt
William C. J. Frueh	Charles Warner
George I. Leighton	Samuel Weston
George A. McKenzie	

Sixth Class

Ernest N. Jorgensen	Frank A Roberts
Thomas Maceda	Horace P. Thrasher
Harris H. Todd	

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand July 1st, 1899,	$385.99
Deposited during the month	$75.75
	$461.74
Withdrawn during the month	$15.63
Balance Aug. 1st, 1899,	$446.11

Heard on the Campus

The class of '99 extend their best wishes to Henry McKenzie and William Davis.

APPLY to Decis for photographs. He has the craze.

The F. S. Trading Co. now carries a full line of School photographs, and watches warranted to keep time for a year.

A tin soldier at Camp Bowditch on being called to go on duty at midnight said, "Don't wake me up first, wake the other feller."

What new sloyd boy cut his finger first?

A Recent Visit

Our steamer left our wharf at about 10.15 A. M. Thursday, July 20, and returned about 11.05 with Mrs. Wolcott, the Governor's wife, Manager Mr. Francis Shaw, Hon. Richard C. Humphreys, Mr. Benjamin Pettee and a party of Boston friends. They first entered the schoolroom, as school hadn't closed, afterward entering the diningroom while the boys were at dinner. After spending some time visiting other places in and about the house they had lunch. After they had lunch we gathered in the first schoolroom and the exercises were opened by a selection by the band, "Wild Oats," followed by two more selections, "Just One Girl" and "Manhattan Beach." Then came an address by Hon. Richard C. Humphreys on moral character, showing that each temptation trodden under foot brings us nearer the light of our Heavenly Father's love. Then there were remarks by Dr. Stewart on our opportunities and the advantage of education. He said that the workman is not to be despised; he is just as much to be respected as any one on God's earth, if he does the very best he is capable of. He was followed by Mr. Pettee on controlling our tempers. Then Mr. Sprowl made a few remarks on future improvements. The boys gave three cheers and a tiger for Governor Wolcott, Mrs. Wolcott and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After saluting the flag we went about our several duties and the visitors, after a call at Cottage Row, returned to the city.

William I. Ellwood.

One Night over at Camp

After supper we had parade, then we marched to the flag staff and presented arms while the bugler blew "retreat." As the bugler blew the last note the flag was hauled down. Sometimes Commandant Reed would let some of the boys go out in the boat and then the rest of us would go into our tents or sing songs. At a quarter past nine "tattoo" sounded and we went to our tents to get ready for bed, except the first guard. When "taps" sounded we rolled up in our blankets and went to sleep. At eleven o'clock the first guard woke the second and told them their beat and then the first guard turned in. There were four sets of guards in one night, two boys being on duty at a time. At five o'clock the last guard woke up the cooks and the boys that had to get water. At half past five the guard woke the bugler; he blew "reveille" and the guard hoisted the flag. The boys got up and got ready for mess at six o'clock. The roll was called then and at half past six we had mess.

George F. Burke.

Swimming over at Camp

During the month's vacation we were in camp, as most of you know, and every day, if it did not rain, the fellows that wanted to had a swim. All the fellows had a swim the first day, two swims the next and some even three. Just as soon as we were undressed we went right in, or rather most of us did, but some waited for two or three minutes and yelled to the fellows in the water, "Is it good water?" If they said, "Yes" a fellow would go right in. Some of the best swimmers went way out to the channel. The boys can swim on their stomachs, hand over hand, on their backs, float, dive and do most anything. The way it goes up at the house is, Monday the first grade has a swim, Tuesday the first and second, Wednesday the first, Thursday the first and second, Friday the first, Saturday the first, second and third.

Clarence W. Barr.

Stories after Dark

Several nights ago while I was over at camp the boys, after it got too dark to play, would gather together in front of Commandant Reed and around the gasoline torch. Commandant Reed would sit in his camp chair in front of his tent while the boys would sit on the ground. Most of the boys got their comforters and wrapped them around themselves, then the Commandant would tell us stories and some of his experiences out West. The name of one of the ghost stories that he told was, "It Floats." He also told us some of his uncle's experiences. Once in a while a boy would ask a question and other boys would tell some of their experiences down here.

Charles A. Taylor.

Alumni

Alden B. Hefler, '87, is one of the interesting young men whom we are pleased to mention as an alumnus. Alden is employed by Hugh Wright & Co., dye stuffs, 144 Purchase Street and lives at 15 Middleton Avenue, Dorchester.

Harold E. Brenton, '90, is spending the summer in Perkins' Clinomilitant Band of Boston at New Orleans, La., as solo cornet and assistant leader. Leroy Kenfield, '82, plays first trombone in the same band. In a recent letter Harry speaks of the city as quite differently managed as regards the care of streets, sewage, &c., from what Boston is; he also misses the cool east wind. He writes, "I will be glad to see Boston once more. Some of the boys have been slightly sick, but Roy and I have been like horses, you can't hurt us; our early training tells and I thoroughly believe it too. The positions which we hold in the band speak well for Mr. Morse, as our entire instruction was from him and, on my part, Mrs. Bradley. That practice with the piano has helped me more than any thing else. The men in the band have often rehearsed what fine musicians that Island has turned out; we lose no opportunity to talk it up and tell that was where we first saw an instrument. We have heard the crack boy's band of this state, about forty pieces; they could not play fifteen minutes with the boys at the School; their time, tone and style were way below par. Our trombone quartette spoke of it before I had said a word." Harry's address is 303 North Rampart St., New Orleans, La. They are engaged to play in Houston, Texas, during August and two weeks in September.

William I. Peabody, '91, who served in the Spanish-American war, visited us a short time since and had every appearance of having fared well. He is a robust fellow. He lives at 5 Knollin St., Malden and works in Lynn.

Frank P. Wilcox, '92, is making his vacation from Technology count by doing civil engineering at Narragansett Pier.

George M. Taylor, '94, has been with the firm of Moore, Smith & Co., wholesale hatters, 240 Devonshire St., Boston since leaving the School. George lives with his mother at 9 Athol St., Allston, and is a very steady and industrious young man.

Algine B. Steele, '95, since graduating from the School has been employed by the H. N. Bates Machine Co. He was an apprentice in their shop at Roxbury for about two years, but when the firm decided to move their works to Nashua, N. H., Algie entered the store on Congress St., Boston, where he is now shipping clerk. Algie has been a member of an Amateur Theatrical Co. and has done some hard work outside of his regular employment. He was married in April, 1898 and now resides on Gilman St., Somerville.

Walter McKeever, '95. Walter's time was up with F. W. Aldrich of Westmoreland, N. H., last spring, where his associations were of the pleasantest. He is now with Keck, Mosser & Co., leather dealers, 84 High Street, Boston, and lives with his sister at 1 Prospect Avenue, Charlestown.

The Shaw Prizes

The semi-annual award of the Shaw prizes, the Temple Consolation prizes, and Honorable Mention for the half year just ended is given below. The award of these prizes is based upon our grade system of marking. The names were read and the prizes distributed on Wednesday evening July 19.

Shaw Prizes.

1, George Mayott	2, Merton P. Ellis
3, William C. Carr	4, Frank W. Harris
5, William Austin	6, Joseph A. Carr
7, John T. Lundquist	8, Thomas Brown
9, Carl L. Wittig	10, Lester H. Witt.

Temple Consolation Prizes.

11, Samuel F. Butler	12, Leo T. Decis
13, Harry H. Leonard	14, C. Alfred H. Malm
15, Daniel Murray.	

Honorable Mention.

16, Samuel Webber	17, Thomas Maceda
18, James Edson	19, William Davis
20, George Thomas.	

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 5. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. September 1899.

Camp Bowditch

A vacation that gives an opportunity for play with but little work, and at the same time appeals to the martial spirit is one that delights the heart of a boy. To leave the duties and even the comforts of the home to live in a tent with no bed but a quilt and the warm earth is a vacation of pleasure. For in the vivid imagination of the youthful play-soldier comforts are found in discomforts of camp life and a few tents assume the importance of an army encampment. Such a vacation the boys of the School enjoyed at Camp Bowditch this summer when four companies of boys camped for a week each. This arrangement in companies was made in order that the work of the house and farm might go on uninterrupted.

On the nineteenth of June Company A marched with baggage to Oak Knoll where a camp was soon laid out and the flag of Camp Bowditch was unfurled. It was a new experience to most of the boys to pitch tents in the order of a military camp. And the fact that the tents had been used in the army and that on the inside were still names suggesting army life gave a foundation for the play of the imagination. At the end of the first day the boys were occupying the tents, the cook tent was in shape, a telephone line nearly completed and military order established. In all the work the boys were shown how to do things in a military manner.

The daily routine of duties was made out and carefully followed from "Reveille" to "Taps", every formation and duty being announced by bugle calls. In fact with the number of regular calls to be played and the newer ones to be practiced the buglers complained of sore lips and overwork. The details for guards and cook's helpers were made from rosters kept by the orderly and details for special duties were made by the Commandant. Camp was kept clean by a general police under the supervision of the officer of the guard. Guard was kept every night by eight boys, two sentinels at a time for two hours. This not only gave a military air but afforded many amusing incidents, such as when posts appeared to be "clammies" or every tree hid a man. To others guard was so unexciting that they fell asleep listening for the clock to strike the end of their watch. The first night each company spent at camp was full of excitement for the boys and sleeplessness for the Commandant. But after that weariness was stronger than playfulness.

The mess tent was in charge of a commissary sergeant appointed each week from the company in camp. Although a great deal of cooking was done at the house, yet the sergeants and their assistants did much work in a creditable manner.

The military drill for the most part was on the more rudimentary movements of close order, Co. D being the only one to take up extended order. This was of interest to them for it allows a free movement and it is in this order that the battle exercises are executed. Usually three short drills were held each day. Three of the companies had the drill of pitching their own tents, thus learning the qualifications of a good camp.

Camp Bowditch was also a pleasure camp, so much time was given for amusement. Base ball occupied some of the time. The boat STANDISH which was at camp was in constant demand for rowing and fishing. A swim was in

order when ever the tide permitted. Races were run, boys were tossed, songs were sung and stories told. All the ingenuity of boyhood was brought to bear on the fun question and it would not have been a lot of lively boys had camp been free from harmless pranks, which afforded subjects for good-natured camp talk. The last Saturday was given over for a competition drill and exhibition. In this all the companies took part and did well, but Company D carried off all honors. The day was closed with a band concert and a large fire on the beach.

L. F. Reed

The Camera In Camp Bowditch

Of course photographers must be in an army camp as much as any one else and so it was in Camp Bowditch. In Company A there was one photographer who got several very good photographs of camp life, such as the Company at mess and at drill, our Commandant and staff and blanketing a private. Two views of the tents were taken in Company A. All except one of the tents were taken by Decis, the other was taken by myself. Company B was not so fortunate and had only two taken, one of the Commandant and staff and one of blanketing a private. In Company C there was only one taken; that was of Commandant Reed at headquarters. Company D was the prize company and it had some pictures taken with Mr. Bradley's camera. The last Saturday afternoon I went over to camp with the large camera with orders to do what the Commandant wanted me to. When I got over there he said that I had better take the camp first, of which I got a good negative; then I took some of the company at drill which were also very good. After that I took one more of tossing a private in a blanket. Decis got one of the Commandant and staff and that ended the photography for 1899 in Camp Bowditch. Duplicates of all these photographs are for sale by the Farm School Trading Company on Visiting Days or can be obtained by mail on receipt of twenty-five cents.

Herbert E. Balentine.
2nd Sergeant Co. C.

Herbarium

A few years ago an herbarium was started at the School as Mr. Bradley wanted to have a specimen of every flower on the Island that he could. When a specimen was found it would be taken to one of the teachers who pressed it, put it on to a piece of paper by two pieces of gum paper, and then the family to which it belongs and the Latin and English names were written by it. Among the specimens were fern, wild daisy, butter-cup, dandelion, pepper-grass and oxeye daisy. There are about forty specimens in all. For quite a while no specimens were brought in, but recently Miss Strong showed the herbarium to the first, second and third classes and most of the boys became interested in it. In a few days twenty new specimens were brought in. Some of the specimens are found only in certain places and are not found very often. Only wild flowers are taken.

C. Alfred H. Malm.

Sloyd

A few days ago four boys including myself began work in the sloyd class. The first thing we do when we get into the shop is to take our coats and caps off and stand by our benches. Then Mr. Littlefield rings the bell and the monitors come along with aprons, pencils and erasers. After we have our aprons on he rings the bell again and the first eight boys get their drawings and drawing boards or whatever they are to work on. As soon as the first eight boys have their things the next eight boys get theirs, then we get our models. We always draw our model before we make it out of wood. At first we draw two or three models before we make any. I have drawn my wedge and planting-pin and have almost finished my flower-stick. When I get this done I will make my wedge. We have an hour and a quarter a day in the morning every day in the week except Saturday and Sunday. The afternoon boys have only two days in a week, as there are two classes and the time has to be divided up between the two classes and one afternoon for the blacksmith class.

Charles F. Spear.

Nights at Camp

At nine o'clock P. M. taps sounded, the guards went on duty and the rest turned in for the night. The first night that I was in camp I slept only about two hours. When the first guard's duty was up, the two others were in the tent that I was in and when he went to wake them up I was awakened. When I looked to see what woke me up I saw that it was the guard that had fallen over me, and that was the way all the time I was over there. One night three or four fellows beside myself took a lasso. There were some boys sleeping, so I took the lasso and went into the tent where they were. I put a boys feet into it and then I gave the signal to pull and they pulled him out of the tent a-flying. We did the same to others that were sleeping. Other nights we would get our blankets and put them in a pile and then we would run and jump into the air and turn over. Sometimes we would roll the pumpkin. The way to do it is to make a pumpkin out of yourself and then turn over on the ground head first. Sometimes we would try to climb the flag staff.

E. Carl Crowell.

Organization of the New Band

A good many boys have gone away from this School this summer and most of them had been in the old band so we needed some new ones in their places. A short time ago Mr. Bradley and Mr. Morse thought it would be well if they could get some boys who had a pretty good ear for music and organize a new band. The leader of the old band picked out some boys who, he thought, would make a success on the instrument that he would get and try to learn. After a while they decided upon enough boys to fill up most of the instruments. Of course when a boy first takes up an instrument he does not expect to blow a very good tone but he keeps it up until he can play a scale, and most every boy can play the scale now. Some can even play pieces, so you see that some boys have a good ear for music. Each boy that they got for the new band seems to take an interest in the instrument that he has and practises most every day in the week. Even nights they go out and play together under the leadership of some boy. Some day I suppose that the boys in the new band will be able to play as well as the old band boys; we had to try hard to get into the old band.

Charles B. Bartlett.

Laying the Pipes

At the beginning of the dry time which we have had Mr. Bradley decided we must have something done to keep the garden watered, and so he had the farm boys dig a ditch along the farmhouse path to lay the water pipes in. We had to dig it about three feet deep. We used the pick and shovel. After we got all done digging up along the path Mr. Bradley had some boys help him lay the pipes. After we got the pipes all laid the boys began to fill in the dirt. As they would shovel about a foot of dirt in we would level it off and then pound it down hard. When we got that done Edward Steinbrick would take the hose and wash the dirt down, then the boys would put some more dirt in and do the same thing over again until we got it done. After this was all done they put some other pipes where they would branch off, and then they put the hose on one of those places and they could water the pieces such as the strawberry piece, onion piece and others. The water comes from the farmhouse cellar and comes under the ground until it gets to the place where it comes out.

Daniel W. Murray.

My Work in the Barn

At one o'clock the bell rings and all of the boys that are not at work in the house gather in the playroom and line up as soon as the whistle is blown. After the boys are all in line Mr. Chamberlin gives the order for the boys to go to their work. As soon as we get to the barn I go down stairs and get on my overalls and go to work. I sweep the lower floor and then I go up stairs and get down some hay and put it down the trap for the stock. After the hay is all down I sweep the floor. About half past three I bed the horses and then go to the house and get the swill-cart and feed the pigs and take the cart back again. Harry H. Leonard.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

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CHARLES H. BRADLEY, Superintendent.

Courage and Reason

By M. B. Thrasher.

When Admiral Dewey was a boy his home was in the village of Montpelier, Vermont, where his father was a physician. Just back of the house in which Dr. Dewey lived was a shallow little stream called the "Onion" river, because when the first settlers came there they found so many wild onions growing on the banks. Now it is called the "Winooski" river, from two Indian words, "winoos" and "ki", meaning "plenty of onions." Montpelier is in the very heart of the Green Mountains, and this river, like all streams in a mountainous country, was liable to rise very rapidly if there had been a rain storm among the mountains.

One afternoon in the summer, when Dewey was a boy, he was sent after the cows, a neighbor's boy going with him. As it was raining, the boys were allowed to take the Doctor's horse and buggy. To reach the pasture it was necessary to cross the river, and there were two ways of doing this, one by a ford near the house and the other by a bridge quite a good deal farther away.

The boys drove first to the ford, where usually they could have easily waded across, but now they found the river swollen by the rain to a muddy, angry flood. The other boy wanted to turn back and go down to the bridge, but Dewey, pointing to wagon tracks down to the water's edge, and not stopping to think that they had been made there before the water rose, said, "What man has done, man can do," and drove in. The water was so deep and the current so strong the buggy was soon swept off the bottom, and the boys only escaped by crawling out onto the horse's back and clinging to the harness until the animal swam ashore.

In this adventure Dewey showed that he had courage and reason. He reasoned from the wagon tracks down to the river, that some one had crossed there; and he had the confidence and determination to do what any one else had done. At the same time it would have been better for him if he had reasoned farther, which in this case he could have done without an excess of caution, and decided that the conditions at the ford were different when the last wagon before his had crossed.

Just the right balance between courage

and reason is what we should strive for. If Dewey had driven down to the bank of the river anywhere, and tried to cross, merely because people did cross the stream somewhere, that would not have been courage, but simply foolhardiness.

It is just as if boys who were to go across to the city should start out in one of the smallest boats, in a bad storm, because they knew that at some other time that boat had made safe crossings. On the other hand they would be to blame if they said, because it was rough, "Oh, we can't cross," and took no pains to find out if they could. Between the two would lie the right course, a combination of courage to go if possible, and reason to decide if it were possible, and if so which would be the most suitable boat to use.

What would be true of the boat and crossing, would be true of nearly everything in life. Act, but think before you act! Courage without reason becomes foolhardiness. Reason without courage may degenerate into cowardice. A nicely balanced combination of the two enables a man not only to achieve success himself, but to accomplish great good for those associated with him.

Notes

Aug. 1. Finished dredging the basin between the wharf and breakwater.

Aug. 2. Merton P. Ellis left the School to work in the office of Mr. Thomas J. Hind, 19 Milk St. He will board with his brother at Mrs. Loud's, 40 Gates St., South Boston.

Aug. 5. Visiting Day. 183 present, among whom were Managers, Mr. Caleb A. Curtis and Mr. Henry S. Grew, also graduates Thomas Punchard, John A. Lundgren, Benjamin F. Gerry and Herbert A. Hart.

Aug. 7. Scow load of dressing towed from Walworth's.

Aug. 8. Sowed hungarian grass seed for green feed.

Aug. 10. Vice President Mr. Eben Bacon and daughter accompanied by friends from New Orleans, Louisiana, and Manager Mr. Francis Shaw visited the School.

Frank Ernest Welch entered the School.

Herbert A. Pulson came to spend a few days at the School.

Aug. 11. Chester John Parker entered the School.

George Mayott left the School and is at work for Dr. Joseph R. Draper, Westford, Mass.

Aug. 12. Sowed barley and late turnips.

Aug. 13. William Smeaton made us a call.

Aug. 14. Third load of dressing from Walworth's.

Aug. 15. Joseph Pratt entered the School.

Began cutting salt hay from the flats.

Finished painting and varnishing the STANDISH and put her in commission.

Aug. 16. Putting in the winter's supply of coal.

Aug. 17. Finished unloading the coal.

One lot of books received from Mr. John Wilson of Cambridge, Mass.

Chauncey Page left the School to go to his uncle, Webster W. Page of Hopkinton, Mass; later he will work in town and live with his mother.

Aug. 18. PILGRIM up on the beach for paint and varnish.

Finished painting and varnishing the PRISCILLA and put her again in commission.

Aug. 22. Plasterer began pointing up and whitewashing all through the house.

Aug. 23. Thomas J. Fairbairn who has been back to the School for a short time went to live with his mother in Highlandville, Mass.

Aug. 24. Harry H. Leonard left the School to live with his mother at 2 Greenwich Street, Roxbury.

Aug. 25. Load of dressing from Walworth's.

Aug. 28. Company D given a trip to Fort Warren and other points in the harbor for their excellence in drilling during camp month and the lieutenant of the company, Charles A. Edwards, was presented with a watch.

Aug. 29. First lot of tomatoes sent to market.

Blacksmith shoeing the horses all around.

Aug. 30. George Girard, '86, and friend, a nephew of Mr. Charles H. Chapman a former instructor in carpentry here, visited the School, also William G. Cummings.

The knockabout WINSLOW given a coat of paint and varnish.

Aug. 31. Began painting the corridors and halls.

Heard on the Campus

The old blacking kit has gone out of commission after a cruise in the shed of seven years, and is now replaced by a new one.

In spite of the way the paint was put on the CHILTON it looks pretty well.

Our new Chief of Police is breaking the record.

Merton Ellis left telling footprints in the printing office which the new foreman is trying to erase.

Bikes are all the rage. William Austin had his about fifteen minutes before it was ready to go to town for repairs.

A new supply of harmonicas received by The Farm School Trading Co. Sweet music is to be heard about the grounds.

The fellows are beginning to wonder if Mrs. Bradley is going to have any more birthdays or if she is going to remain the same age. No party this year.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Aug. 1st, 1899,	$446.11
Deposited during the month	$56.17
	$502.28
Withdrawn during the month	$127.88
Balance Sept. 1st, 1899.	$374.40

Gathering Salt Hay

During the last two weeks four of us boys have been gathering salt hay off the flats and spreading it in the field just above the beach to dry. Nilson mows it and three of us fellows gather it up and spread it out to dry. We have to work with the tide because when it is high tide the water comes up over the grass and it can't be cut. At low tide and half tide is the best time to work at it. While the boy who drives the oxen is gone off with a load the other boys pile the hay up in large piles and rake up the scatterings. We go over to gather it after it has dried and take it to the barn where it is put upon a scaffold and used for young stock and for bedding.

CHESTER O. SANBORN.

My Trip to Salem

Thursday, June 22, Mr. and Mrs. Sears invited me down to Salem to spend the day with them. I went to the North Union Station and took the train. When I reached Salem they greeted me with joy. Then we all had dinner. After dinner Mr. and Mrs. Sears showed me around. We went over to the old witch's house, or Roger Williams' house it is called. It has been standing there since 1632. There were little witches and dishes made of silver for sale. All these things for sale were on the first floor. We went up a flight of old stairs into the attic where I saw two old cradles, one of which is said to be the cradle that Roger Williams was rocked in. I saw the old muskets, spears, swords and tomahawks which they used to fight with and the old fashioned hats that the men and women used to wear. This house is said to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, witch house in Salem. When I went into the house I was a little frightened and began to wonder if I would come out all right. There were not many windows in the house. We then went to see the place where they used to hang witches. The place is called Gallows Hill. On that hill barrels are piled up about twenty feet high in the air and burned on the Fourth of July to celebrate the witch town.

SAMUEL W. WEBBER

Pulling Wild Carrots

Some of the farm boys have been pulling wild carrots out in the fields lately. Mr. Sellew takes us out into the fields to pull these carrots because they are bad to have in the fields for when they mow the hay these carrots are cut down and get in with the hay and the cows do not like them because they are so bitter. When we go out Mr. Sellew gives some of us trowels with which to dig up the large carrots that we can not pull with our hands. After we pull them we put them in little piles and then a couple of boys come around with a bushel box and take up the small piles and put them all in a large pile together.

DANIEL W. LAIGHTON.

Throwing the Quoits

On the play ground is a place to throw quoits. There is a stick placed in the ground where there is no grass and it is put in as solid as possible. At the other end is placed another stick at about the distance of fifty-four feet from the first one. There are eight quoits, four of which are ten-pounders and another set of four which weigh eight pounds. The quoits are round pieces of iron, flat on the bottom and curved on top. They are of a doughnut shape on top. A boy takes one in his hand and throws it at the other stick and he has a boy to throw against him toward the same stick he is throwing to. There is a boy at the other stick. The one that comes the nearest gets five. If he has two quoits and gets them both nearer than the other player does his two count ten for him. In case of two or four playing twenty-one points constitute a game, if six play fifteen points are the game. If a boy gets a quoit over the stick that one counts ten alone and so on till a boy beats in the game.

ALBERT H. LADD.

Dredging

The Columbian Dredging Company has been doing some dredging for the School. The basin on the north side of the wharf has been all dug out. The day the dredger came Mr. Bradley let the fellows go down to the wharf to see it working. One man stands on a platform near the boom where the steam shovel is and operates the shovel by means of different levers. When the shovel is full a man that tends to the steam pulls the lever and swings the shovel over the mud scow, then the man on the platform pulls the rope and empties it. Each shovel-ful is about equal to a one-horse load. When all the scows are full a tugboat tows them to City Point where they are filling in. When one place was dug enough the shovel was let down and the two front spuds were hoisted up from the mud and the back ones trailed on a slant. Then the steam was let on and the dredger pulled itself along by the shovel and the spuds were let down in the mud to hold the dredger fast while another place was dug out. Our steamer at low tide would touch bottom before this was done; now at low tide there is about ten feet of water. This makes it possible for our steamer to enter or leave the basin at low tide.

DANA CURRIER.

Origin of "Uncle Sam."

"UNCLE SAM" is a term applied to the Government of the people of the United States. It is a jocular extension of the initials U. S. It is used in the same sense that "John Bull" is applied to the Government of the British people. The name "Uncle Sam" originated as follows: During the war of 1812 a man named Samuel Wilson was Government Inspector at Troy of pork and beef purchased by the government. The cases containing the provisions were shipped to the government by Elbert Anderson, a contractor, who had each case marked with his initials, "E. A.," and underneath were the initials "U. S.," and he was jocularly informed that it meant "Uncle Sam," referring to Samuel Wilson, the inspector who was usually called "Uncle Sam." This pleasantry was repeated in several forms and Wilson was congratulated on the extent of his property, as many cases passing there were so marked. The story spread, took firm root and to-day the allusion is everywhere understood.

No power, no respect.

Alumni

WILLIAM W. SMEATON, '89, made us a call recently. For a few years after leaving the School he was emp'oyed as a machinist, but he now is in business for himself and has a retail hardware store at 144 Norfolk street, Dorchester.

WILLIAM E. ODIORNE, '90, has been working for the last two years for Dr. F. D. Worcester of Keene, N. H. Odiorne is a member of the New Hampshire National Guard, belonging to Company H of the Second Regiment. He has recently returned from a five day's muster at Concord, which he enjoyed, and is looking forward to the coming trials of marksman-ship. If Odiorne can shoot as straight as he can throw a stone he ought to take a first prize.

SUMNER W. PARKER, '90. In an alumni note several months ago we noted the fact that Sumner Parker had taken a large farm in Westmoreland, N. H., and gone into business for himself. In one of his letters from which we quoted at the time, he spoke of some of his plans for this year. It is a pleasure to know how successfully he is carrying out these plans. A representative of the School who visited him recently, and took dinner with him, writes, "What a dinner that was! I had to be 'boosted' into a wagon when I came away. And almost all of it right off the farm. Big, mealy, new potatoes, of which Sumner has already marketed a hundred bushels; summer squash and cucumbers from the garden; squash pie and blackberry pie, the berries picked at home; delicious cream and butter,- an average of fifty pounds a week of butter being made and sold,- and home-made ice cream which, incredible as it may sound to say it, was equal to that which Mrs. Bradley makes. It was quite a Farm School dinner, since, in addition to the School's representative and Sumner, there were present William Odiorne, John Owens and Orra Becker."

HAROLD E. BRENTON, '90, writes from New Orleans, Louisiana,- "Your letter received, also the BEACONS. What a fine little paper that is; it is a great thing for the old boys to get hold of it and read it. It makes one think himself back on the Island. There is a something about the School entirely its own. All the men in the house have read the little paper and think it a fine thing. I saw a little account of the BEACON in the Boston Herald."

GEORGE B. PERRY, '95. A recent visit to Perry found him on top of a load of hay, and in the middle of haying. The farm on which he lives is the largest farm in Warren, Vermont, and one of the best farms in the State. Perry likes his home and work, and is conducting himself in such a manner as to be a credit to himself and to the School. He is singularly fortunate in the nature of the home in which he lives. The family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tillotson, Mr. Tillotson's father and mother, little son and Perry. It is very rarely that a representative of the School goes into a home where the home life is so happy and elevating as this, and its effect upon Perry, who is made wholly one of the family, is as evident as it is satisfactory. It would amuse the boys at the School to see George tend the baby. Mr. Tillotson's little boy is about two years old, and he and Perry are equally devoted to each other. When the question was asked, as it frequently was, "Where's the baby?" some one would usually answer, "Oh, he's out with George;" and when George comes to the house it is usually with the baby on his shoulder.

Alumni Notice

A meeting of the Farm School Alumni Association will be held on Tuesday evening September 19, 1899, at 8 o'clock in Wheelock Hall, 558 Columbia Road, Upham's Corner, Dorchester.

A report of the Committee appointed June 17, 1899, will be heard, the constitution will be framed and adopted and any other business which may properly come before the meeting will be transacted.

Note. If members will take a Meeting House Hill or Neponset car and get off at Upham's Corner some one will be there to meet them.

WILLIAM G. CUMMINGS, Secretary.

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 6. Printed at the Farm School, Boston, Mass. October 1899.

The Farm School Trading Company

On February first Mr. Bradley asked me to take the stock of goods which he had on hand such as knives, harmonicas, stamps and stamp albums and we two become partners which should do business under the name of The Farm School Trading Company, I to be manager. My work is in the clothing room and these goods were placed in a case which had been made for them in one corner of the clothing room. This store is open evenings from 7.30 to 9 o'clock, as that is the time any boys who have business to attend to can do so by asking the instructor who is in charge at that time. I open the store on Visiting Days, too, as I have quite a lot of photographs which different boys have taken of different views about the Island which the visitors are interested to see and I sell quite a lot of them; besides I have the Beacon to sell at five cents a copy. The instructors also find it very handy to get mucilage, ink, stationery, &c. I am always glad to have some one stop and buy for they seem glad to get what they want and I am glad to sell to them.

When the boys used to come to Mr. Bradley for these things they would go to the office and rap, and after he told them to come in, one of the smaller boys would walk up to to him at his desk and ask if he could buy a a harmonica or knife. Mr. Bradley would tell him the price and if the boy had only a small bank account the boy would shake his head and say, "That is more than I can pay." Mr. Bradley would say, "Well, how much money have you?" The boy would say, "Eighteen cents," or whatever he had, and the answer would come, "You can have it, save your money," and "Good night." I think if I should do that way my balance would come on the wrong side of the account.

We keep a set of books; sales book, stock book, invoice book and ledger. The sales book shows what we have sold, the stock book shows what goods we have on hand the first of each month, the invoice book shows what we bought and how much we paid for it and the ledger shows how the different accounts stand and the profit or loss. We keep bank checks on hand so that when a boy buys anything he can make out his check to cover the cost and I deposit it to the credit of the Farm School Trading Company. The first of each month I take account of stock, having first paid for any stock received during the month, and then Miss Wright goes over the accounts with me and we are able to tell how much we have made. I take the half that comes to me and add it to my own account in the Farm School Bank and Mr. Bradley leaves his share to buy more stock with.

When we started this business we had about twenty dollars worth of goods, now we have about twice that amount, having added rules, combs, automatic pencils, crayons, stationery, watches, purses, etc., and we are buying goods right along so that we have everything that is usually wanted by the boys. Sometimes a boy will want to buy some thing that we have not got. I take note of what it is and how much he wants to pay and then we send to Boston for it, if it is thought best. We buy our goods at wholesale and sell for small profit, so the fellows are able to get their goods cheaper than they could get them in Boston. Some fellows say it is a fine thing to have a store so you can go in and buy what you want, and others say it is a fine place to spend your money, too.

Phillip J. Parent.

General Farm Work

Usually the small boys have to weed and pick vegetables and do such small work as that. This week we have weeded mangels, carrots, parsnips, salsify, corn salad, spinach and lettuce. Sometimes we get ahead of the weeds and then we work on the dikes, pull wild carrots, pick vegetables and fruit. Sometimes we farm boys go up to the house and try to wash paint and do such things; we don't do it quite as quickly as the house boys do so they call us farmers. When they come down to the farm and cannot tell the difference between lettuce and spinach or something like that we call them green.

GEORGE THOMAS.

Harmonica Craze

It is now harmonica time and the boys are having a very good time with them. The Farm School Trading Co. has had a new supply of them and a great many boys have them now, so in the morning and in the evening before meals you can hear a great many harmonicas and Jew's-harps and it sounds very funny. If a boy should try to read after the whistle blows for "all in", I don't think he could do so very easily and be interested for I have tried it myself and could not read on account of them. When it is a boy's birthday if he tells Mr. Bradley or if Mr. Bradley finds it out he will take the boy into the store where there are a great many nice things and ask the boy what he wants. The boy takes what he wants most, thanks Mr. Bradley and goes to bed feeling very happy. Harmonicas have been given in this way. FREDERICK P. THAYER.

The Coal Barge

The coal barge came a few weeks ago and the farm boys unloaded it. There were about one hundred and ninety tons of coal aboard her. A coal barge comes every summer with enough coal to last us a year. This time the barge brought 150 tons of furnace coal, 15 tons of stove coal and 25 tons of steamer coal. This time we unloaded the barge in two days. We had three carts carrying coal all day, the two one-horse carts and the ox cart. We carried all the stove coal and part of the furnace coal into the house cellar, all the steamer's coal went in back of the boat house into the coal shed there and over half of the furnace coal was carried into the barn cellar. I had to tend the trap door in the barn floor. When a cart came with a load some one would come up from below and help me lift up the trap-door and block the wheels with some pieces of wood; after the load was dumped we would take our shovels and go down into the bin and help level off the coal. When it was dinner time we all needed to wash pretty badly and we were hungry, too.

DANIEL W. LAIGHTON.

Pin Wheels

The small boys make pin-wheels and take them out doors and hold them to let the wind blow on them. This is the way they make them; they get a square piece of stiff paper and make two long creases running through it from one corner to the other. Then they tear down each crease to about a quarter of an inch from the center. They take the four corners and bend them down toward the middle, then they stick a pin through the four corners and the center and put it on a stick and it is made.

HAROLD S. TAYLOR.

One Morning's Work

This morning we worked in the orchard gathering up apples that had fallen on the ground. We started over by the old barn and finished over by the nursery for young trees and bushes. It was about a quarter of eight o'clock when we began. As one box was filled the two boys who carried the boxes would take it into the piggery and dump the apples into the barrels; we filled them and then filled four half-bushel boxes. We sent one bushel of the best sour apples up to the house and about a half bushel of nice red ones. As soon as we finished one half of the orchard we went into the other half and after the apples were all gathered we went over to the lumber yard and fixed up there a little. Then we went to weeding mangels. After we finished those we weeded the lettuce, the spinach, the salsify, parsnips and started to weed the other mangel piece.

CLARENCE W. BARR.

Verses from the Bible

This term and last the boys of the first school have had to have a verse from the bible every Wednesday morning and afternoon. The first verse we had to have began with A, the next with B, the next with C, and so on down the alphabet. The next verse we have will begin with O. Mr. Bradley sometimes calls for verses on Wednesday night in chapel. The boys study their verses during the week. We each try to have a different verse.

CHARLES W. JORGENSEN.

The Peacock Molting

This last month the peacock has been molting; that is, shedding its feathers. It would go from one place to another dropping its feathers: about every place it went it would drop one. The boys would come along and find them and take them up to the reading room and give them to Tom Brown. He would put them where the others were. They were put behind a piece of string attached to two pictures. They look very pretty that way as you can see all the colors. I have found three feathers in the way I have described. When the peacock's feathers are gone it looks funny without any tail, but they grow again in the spring and it looks as pretty as before. GEORGE G. NOREN.

The Lathes

There are two lathes in the shop; one is for wood work and the other for iron work. There are eighteen tools for the lathe with which we do our wood work. When any one wants to turn something out on the lathe he gets a piece of wood and then finds the center, takes the corners off and puts it in the lathe. The gouge is used for getting the wood round. When a fellow wants to chuck anything out, the center is driven out and then the end of the wood is driven into the spindle. The nosing tool is used for chucking anything out. The single face is used for making knobs and other things. A screw is put in the plate and then into the wood. There is a jig saw which is used for sawing table tops mostly. Some of the things we turn out on the lathe are boat braces, cups, napkin rings, chisel handles and dumb-bells. In winter the fellows sharpen their skates on an emery wheel which is attached to the lathe. The lathe we use for iron is not used as much as the other. It is mostly used for drilling holes. To bore a hole a drill is placed in the chuck and the iron is set on the rest and then the wheel is turned. The iron presses against the drill which makes a hole very easily. Our lathes are run by a boy with his foot which we call kicking.

DANA CURRIER.

Star List

A few weeks ago Miss Strong put a list of the boys in the first, second and third classes in the order named on a sheet of cardboard. When school opened in the afternoon Miss Strong told us what it was for. Every boy who gets perfect lessons during the day, or a five, which is the highest mark we can get, she puts a gilt star by his name, and every week that a boy gets five stars she adds a red star. When the term is over Miss Strong is going to give each boy his strip of fives or stars. When school is over most of the boys go and see if they have a five or ask if they stand a chance of getting one. The first class has the most for its size as there are just seven members. As each boy is trying to rank first and to get the flag for his row, it is quite interesting.

C. ALFRED H. MALM.

The Weather Report

Every school day when we first come in, Miss Strong goes up to the blackboard with a piece of chalk in her hand and asks the boys for the temperature, which way the wind is blowing, when it was sunrise and sunset, and whether it is full moon, half moon, first or last quarter. Every month we have a new design around the calendar. One of the boys makes the figures and Miss Strong draws the design. For August there were some water lilies for the design. When the sun is out Miss Strong makes a drawing of it, when it is raining she makes a picture of an open umbrella and when it is cloudy she draws a closed one. These things help us to be observing.

AXEL E. RENQUIST.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

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No Power, no Respect

This short epigram printed in a modest place in the last BEACON is worthy of attention by those who hope to win respect. Respect is not given to men by chance; the heroes of the world are not chosen by a blind fate, but intelligently, because of their ability or qualities. Every man of reputation stands for something that men admire. We see in another the power which we possess or desire and our respect is commanded by that person, for he, to some extent, fulfills our ideal. Every boy who desires muscular strength respects the stalwart football player or the burly boxer. They are the names of the great athletes that are enshrined in his temple of heroes. Educated men, although admiring physical power, give their respect to men of mental power. To some "There is nothing worthy of respect but mind."

Young men are striving to acquire fortunes that they may have the respect which the power of wealth commands. Political power is often coveted by men who are not great that they may have the respect that comes with political position. Yet the highest respect of the world is not given to those who are powerful because of some acquired position but to those who have power in themselves. There is a vast difference between respect that is born of fear and that which is given to power such as good men desire. The men who are crowned by the world as heroes were truly great. The memory of the scientist Bruno is more respected than those who had the power to kill him, for his power was in the greatness of his mind, theirs in the position they held. The name of Paul is respected while the name of Agrippa who had power to keep him in bonds is despised. An officer who has the power to be honest and manly is respected and pitied but those who had the power to unjustly condemn him are bitterly denounced.

Lasting respect comes only by developing the power within ourselves. Men lack the respect of their fellows because they have not developed their ability to do something or be something. Too many men live all their lives unrespected because they are too lazy to use and increase the power that is latent. The world does not care for what a man might be, but takes men for what they are. A battery is of no value unless its force can be applied, so a

man must use his power to be respected. It was not Achillies sulking in his tent, but the warrior wielding the battle axe that was the glory of the Greek army. There is the possibility within every man of commanding the respect of all the men he meets. The ability one has, whether it is in play, school, shop or senate, if used honestly and earnestly, will be the power which others must admire. The great evidence of one's power is in an honest, upright life for "he that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city."

L. F. Reed

Notes

Sept. 1. First lima beans.

Sept. 2. Michael Joseph Powers went from the School to live with his aunt in Cambridgeport.

Sept. 4. Labor Day. School and work as usual. Graduates William D. and Herbert A. Hart, John F. Peterson and Clifford M. Pulson passed the day here.

Sept. 5. Visiting Day. 181 people present, among whom were Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Bowditch, also Managers, Mr. I. Tucker Burr, Mr. Caleb A. Curtis, Mr. Henry S. Grew, Mr. Walter Hunnewell and graduates, Edward Steinbrick and William Davis.

Sept. 7. A jobbing mason here patching, plastering, whitewashing, &c.

Sept. 9. First grade given an excursion down the harbor in the afternoon.

Sept. 10. Sunday. Hon. Richard C. Humphreys addressed the boys in the afternoon.

Sept. 11. Harvested table beets.

Sept. 12. Chester J. Parker returned to his mother and Alexander J. FitzGerald received on trial.

Sept. 13. Telephone people putting in the Standard battery for the long distance telephone.

Sept. 17. Sunday. Several instructors and a few of the boys attended church in town.

Sept. 18. Harvesting squash.

The Island Pleasure Association gave a banquet to its members and the instructors.

Sept. 15. Finished cutting corn.

Sept. 16. Digging potatoes.

First practice game of rugby.

Sept. 19. Picking tomatoes.

Sept. 20. Hon. Richard C. Humphreys gave a very interesting lecture on his recent travels in Mexico illustrated by stereopticon pictures.

Sept. 21. Put in a supply of flour, 175 barrels in all.

Alexander J. FitzGerald returned to his mother

Mr. A. Allen came for a few days to instruct the new cobblers in their work.

Lieut. W. G. Ross, in charge of the 2nd District of the Life Saving Service, sent us three reports of that department.

Sept. 24. Sunday. Rev. James Huxtable addressed the boys at 3 P. M.

Mr. Charles F. Fisher, former Sunday Assistant, recently returned from his home in Nebraska, made us a very pleasant visit. He goes to Yale this year.

Several of the instructors and the city government of Cottage Row attended church in town listening to the English divines who are in Boston as delegates to the International Congregational Council.

Sept. 25. Finished housing the onions.

Sept. 26. Leslie W. and Charles A. Graves entered the School.

Citizens of Cottage Row held a caucus for their quarterly election.

Sept. 28. Miss Priscilla Mitchell gave the Chief of Police pictures for Cottage Row.

Sept. 29. Summer term of school closed.

A heavy rain during the night badly washed the avenues, especially near the main entrance to the grounds.

Sept 30. Four new street lights brighten up the court between the main building and Gardner Hall during the early evening.

Mr. Robert F. Clark gave a treat to both instructors and boys sending six baskets of fine Crawford peaches.

Rank in Classes

The following named boys ranked first and second respectively in their classes for the summer term of school.

First Class

William I. Ellwood., C. Alfred H. Malm

Second Class

George Thomas George G. Noren

Third Class

Harold S. Taylor Arthur I. Purdy

Fourth Class

William May Ralph Holmes

Fifth Class

William C. J. Frueh C. James Pratt

Sixth Class

Horace P. Thrasher Harris H. Todd

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Sept. 1st, 1899,	$374.40
Deposited during the month	$44.62
	$419.02
Withdrawn during the month	$72.81
Balance Oct. 1st. 1899.	$346.21

Heard on the Campus

Mr. Bradley recently gave out some badges to the routers of both the Shamrock and Columbia. It was so hot for the Shamrock men the next morning that they had to scratch off the shamrock and have the painters put a capital C on.

"I think that any fellow who can, under all the trying conditions of Rugby, bottle up his wrath, must be a stopper—I mean a corker."

"It disgusts us to see others doing the foolish things we do."

Spiders

This summer quite a number of boys have asked permission to walk along the bank or along the ditches to hunt for golden and silver spiders to keep in their gardens as pets. Why these spiders are so called is because their backs are a golden or a silver color. These, as all other spiders, shed their skins. These spiders are perfectly harmless. A boy will put two or three insects into his web a day and by doing so he can keep his spiders the summer round. In the fall a spider will leave her web and seek a hiding place to lay her eggs which is generally under a leaf. These eggs are kept in a kind of half sphere made out of web. As soon as a boy finds his spider has layed he will hunt till he finds the eggs of his spider: when he finds them he will put them in a safe and warm place to keep until they hatch and then he will have another batch of spiders. When a boy doesn't feed his spiders they will go to another boy's garden. When a boy puts anything in a spider's web she will wrap the web all around the food and when she eats her food she eats the web and all.

C. Archie Taylor.

Work in the Kitchen

I work in the kitchen in the afternoon. When I first go in I get my rinsing pan out and put some good hot water into it. Then I get a towel to wipe dishes with and as fast as the other boy washes I wipe them. There are three boys in the afternoon; one shines the stove, shines the brass and does various other things of that sort while the other two wash and wipe the dishes. After I have gotten the dishes wiped I wash my pan well and set to work scrubbing the towels I have used. When they are washed I rinse them out and hang them up on the rack to dry. Next I ask the boy who washes the dishes to help me down with the swill-barrel. After we bring it up I put some hot water into it and rinse it out. Then I take a scrubbing-brush and some soap and give it a good scrubbing, wipe it off and put it back in its place. After that is done I sweep and dust the entries and sometimes I scrub the tables. Then I get ready to scrub the floor. I do that good and clean and then if there is nothing more to do we are given permission to go. After supper the dish-washer and wiper come in and do up the dishes. Then one of us winds the clock and if that is all that is required of us we go to bed.

Harold S. Taylor.

School Drawings

In school each class has drawing lessons twice a week. A great deal of the drawing is done from copies. Miss Strong draws an object on the blackboard and has the boys copy it or else places the object that is to be drawn in plain view and then has them draw it. Some of the best drawings made lately have been made by Henry McKenzie, Frank Harris, William Ellwood, Charles Edwards, Thomas Brown, Ernest Austin, John Conklin, George Hart and Charles McKay. The boys usually start in by drawing spheres, cylinders, cubes, cones and pyramids. In our schoolroom a large picture of a cow's head hangs over the door; this was drawn by a boy of this school, George H. Richards, in 1881. The first class last year copied this drawing on a smaller scale and some of the drawings looked very much like it. There are also ten large drawings of birds hanging on the wall; these are printed from the original engravings made by Audubon. Some of the boys have copied these and the copies look quite well. The drawings that Miss Strong places on the blackboard to be copied are mostly taken out of educational journals and some are those that she has drawn before. Some of them are an old feudal castle in ruins, a painting on a board of objects in a desert showing the sphinx and pyramids, flowers, birds, etc. Those drawn from objects are vases, bunches of flowers, branches of fern, twigs of trees, leaves, the piano, chairs, the desk, settees, etc. For drawing books the first class has the National Series No. 6. In sloyd mechanical drawings are made but in the schoolroom only free-hand work is accepted.

SAMUEL F. BUTLER.

Nutmegs

Nutmegs grow on little trees which look like little pear trees, and are generally not over twenty feet high. The flowers are very much like the lily of the valley. They are pale and very fragrant. The nutmeg is the seed of the fruit; and mace is the thin covering over the seed. The fruit is about as large as a peach. When ripe, it breaks open and shows a little nut inside. The trees grow on the islands of Asia and tropical America. They bear fruit for seventy or eighty years, having ripe fruit upon them at all seasons. A fine tree in Jamaica has over 4,000 nutmegs on it every year. The Dutch used to have all this nutmeg trade, as they owned the Banda Island and conquered all the other traders, and destroyed the trees. To keep the price up, they once burned three piles of nutmegs, each of which was as big as a church. Nature did not sympathize with such meanness. The nutmeg pigeon, found in all the Indian Islands, did for the world what the Dutch had determined should not be done —carried those nuts, which are their food, into all the surrounding countries, and trees grew again, and the world had the benefit.

Two Inventors

The boys who call at the shop for a "Stilson" wrench may be interested to know that Mr. Stilson who died August 21 at his home in Somerville was born in Durham, N. H., and served his time as a machinist in the cotton factory at New Market and Exeter, N. H. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was at the Charlestown Navy Yard and was appointed 3rd assistant engineer. At the close of the war he entered the firm of J. J. Walworth now Walworth M'f'g., Co., where he invented the "Stilson" wrench which is used all over the world.

Robert Bunson was born in 1811 at Gottingen, Germany, where his father was a professor. He graduated at the University of Gauss in 1830. In 1833 he became professor of chemistry at Cassel, and later held a similar position at Heidelberg University, the highest position of the kind he could hold in Germany. His name is connected with the Bunson battery and Bunson's burner. He invented the hot blast, which in its use with iron alone has enriched every person in the civilized world.

The First Lighthouse

The first lighthouse built in America is supposed to have been the one erected by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1715 on Little Brewster Island. Boston Light now takes its place.

Alumni

Richard Bell, '74. For the past fifteen years Mr. Bell has been connected with the Walter M. Lowney Company, makers of fine candies. He is now the superintendent of this factory whose product has such a wide reputation. Soon after Mr. Bell left the School he went to work as engineer in what was then Mr. Lowney's small factory. As there was not enough to keep him busy in his own work he did whatever he could to help in other departments. This gave him a knowledge of the work of the factory that made him a valuable man to his employers and at the same time showed his willingness to work wherever he could be of use. When the business increased so an overseer was needed Mr. Bell was chosen. After he had been with Mr. Lowney seven years he was made superintendent of the entire factory. He now has full control in the factory with its five hundred employees, which is now running to its full capacity. Mr. Bell is married and lives at 35 Richfield St., Dorchester. His family, of which he is very justly proud and to whom he is very much devoted, consists of his wife and two daughters about ten and twelve years of age. They all recently passed the day here and it was evident that the pleasure and enjoyment of the occasion was mutually shared by us all.

George Walthers, '84, with some of his friends of the Beacon Press, Beacon St., Boston, visited the Island, August fifth. Mr. Walthers has followed the printers' trade since he left the School. When he first went to work he showed his desire to advance by attending an evening school regularly for three years. The greater part of his work has been at the Beacon Press where he is now assistant foreman in the job department. He also worked for Alfred Mudge & Co., printers.

William P. Smith, '95, who has been keeping books for John P. Squire & Company, pork packers, at Cambridge, for the past three years was recently promoted and transferred to their New York office. William is a faithful fellow and will appreciate this advancement.

Albert E. Pratt, '99, is now working for Saco and Pettee of Newton Upper Falls, makers of cotton machinery. He is in the card department and his foreman speaks very well of his work. He makes his home with Mrs. Johnson of Highlandville and is very pleasantly situated.

Invitations are out for the marriage of John Phillips Ackers, '90, to Miss Adeline Wellington Morse of Cambridge on October 12, 1899.

Alumni Notice

A meeting of the Farm School Alumni of Boston was held on Tuesday evening, September 19th, in Wheelock Hall, Dorchester, and about forty graduates of the School were present. The report of the Committee appointed June 17th last was heard, a constitution discussed, altered, amended and approved, and officers elected. The Committee had arranged for the serving of light refreshments which were gratefully received and heartily partaken of by all.

One article of the Constitution changed the name of the organization to the Farm School Alumni Association. The initiation fee was changed from one dollar to fifty cents, and the annual fee from fifty cents semi-annually to one dollar paid annually. The board of officers consists of a President, Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, who shall act as Treasurer, and a Membership Committee composed of the above named officers and five other members, whose duty it shall be to investigate all applications for membership. The election of officers resulted as follows:- President, H. W. French; Vice-President, Walter Hermann; 2nd Vice-President William L. Snow; and Secretary, William G. Cummings. The Membership Committee were not elected.

Notices of the next and possibly all following meetings will be found in at least two of the Boston papers, but they will be sure to be in the Beacon. The next meeting of the Association will be held shortly and we hope after that to proceed steadily and successfully, and we invite and expect the hearty co-operation of all graduates of the Farm School.

William G. Cummings, Secretary.

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 7. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. November 1899.

The Farm School Bank

The boys get quite a little money in different ways; from prizes, work done for Mr. Bradley or some of the instructors, from visitors whom they row across and from their friends. Fifty dollars are given out each year in conduct prizes and on Visiting Days amounts ranging from ten to twenty dollars are deposited by the boys. On February 15th, 1889, a banking system was inaugurated which has proven very helpful to the boys in many ways. First of all it gives them ideas of business methods, as each boy has his bank book, deposits every penny received and gives his check for any amount which he desires to use. Habits of thrift are also developed, and there is always more or less rivalry as to who can show the largest sum to his credit. The statement of each boy's account posted on the bulletin board the first of every month gives ample opportunity for comparisons. Stimulous for good management in this direction is not lacking for six per cent interest is allowed on all amounts above five dollars. One boy recently received over four dollars interest money. About two-thirds of the capital is drawing interest in a savings bank in town, the balance is for a working capital here.

Opportunity is given every evening at 7.30 to do banking, and hardly a night passes when there is not one or more to deposit or draw. . It is not uncommon for a boy to deposit one cent or draw a check for two or three cents.

A statement published in the BEACON every month gives an idea of how much money is represented. Besides each boy's personal book a ledger and cash book are kept, and a bank statement is drawn up at the end of each month which shows the amount of money credited to the boys and the surplus on one side, and the amount in the savings bank and the amount in our safe on the other.

The first leaf in each individual book reads; The Farm School Bank. Educational and Practical. Established 1889, for the Pupils of the Farm School, Thompson's Island, Boston. On the second leaf is found the rules and regulations relating to each boy's duties as a depositor and on the third leaf are found some of "The Sayings of Poor Richard;" "Light purse, heavy heart. Light gains, heavy purses. Every little makes a mickel. Beware of little expenses, a small leak will sink a great ship. If you know how to spend less than you get, you have the philosopher's-stone.

"No trivial Loss, nor trivial Gain despise; Molehills, if often heap'd, to Mountains rise: Weigh every small Expense, and nothing waste. Farthings long sav'd, amount to Pounds at last."

The names of boys who have been the largest depositors are Ove W. Clemmenson, Harold E. Brenton, William F. Galeucia, Harry H. Leonard, Merton P. Ellis, Frank G. Byrant and George Mayott from among the graduates and William C. Carr, Charles W. Russell and Frank W. Harris among the present pupils have the largest accounts. The Farm School Trading Company furnishes ample opportunity to spend money although that is not the only source of exchange of values. Cottages are to be kept in repairs, cottage shares are bought and sold, subscriptions to the Youth's Companion are kept up, books and various other things are purchased. The boys find it full as easy to use their money as those older in experience.

L. S. Wright.

Co. D's Trip

When company D won the prize in drilling over at camp this summer, it was agreed upon that the company that won should decide what the prize should be. Company D decided that the commanding officer, Charles Edwards, should receive a prize and the whole company should go on a trip to Fort Warren. A while after camp was over we went on our trip to Fort Warren. Mr. Bradley first took us over to the two dredgers that were in the channel. Only one dredger was working, the tide being too high for the other one to work. As we were leaving the dredger Mr. Bradley called the company down into the cabin of the Pilgrim. When we were all in the cabin, he took from his pocket a small box containing a gold watch and chain which he presented to the commanding officer of our company who we decided was to have a reward. The next place we went to was the wreck of the Mayflower at which we took a good look and saw one of the boats that once brought our friends here on Visiting Day a wreck lying in Boston harbor. We next went to Fort Warren where we saw the large disappearing guns which they are mounting. They have one ten-inch disappearing gun and two six-inch rapid-fire guns mounted. We visited all the important places of the fort. The men were blasting the earth so that it would be easy to shovel and remove it to some other place. There was also a steam dredger on a track digging the earth as fast as it was blasted. After we saw all we wanted to of the fort we had a pleasant trip home. After we got home we lined up on the wharf and gave Mr. Bradley three cheers which he answered by the Pilgrim's whistle.

ERNEST CURLEY.

New Pieces for the Old Band

The old band has a good many new pieces of music and most of them are very good ones. We have books numbered from one to ten full of good pieces, but we play some of them for a while and then they get what the boys say, "kind of old." Friday nights Mr. Morse most always brings some new pieces down and we are always glad to get them. At first when we begin to learn a few strains most of us begin to say, "Oh, that piece isn't much good!" But after awhile, when each boy can play his part well, we say, "That's a fine piece." Among the latest pieces that Mr. Morse and some other people have got for us are, "Hands Across the Sea," "Eli Green's Cake Walk," "Uncle Rufe's Jubilee," "Soldiers in the Park" from "The Runaway Girl" and "The Fortune Teller." We have a good many more, so you see when we give a concert or play to some company we are ready with some new pieces to play. We are out in Gardner Hall almost every day practicing these new ones and when we get them worn out we most always have some more. CHARLES B. BARTLETT.

Onions

About the first of May the farmers began to prepare the soil for the onions. The land is first plowed and harrowed and then it is all raked up smooth and the largest of the stones carried away. Next the seed sower is used and seeds are sowed in rows. There are about one hundred and seventy-five rows. While the onions are growing a careful watch has to be kept and the weeds pulled so as to give the onions more of a chance. The onions have to be weeded four or five times each year. When they are large enough to roll we get barrels from the old barn and roll them over the onions. We do this so the food will all go to the bulb part instead of the stalk. The onions that fall over of their own accord are a great deal better than the ones which we roll. On the morning of August 4th we began pulling the onions and soon finished them. The first part of the morning we put three rows into one and layed them so that the onions would have a chance to dry quickly. About the middle of the morning we put four rows instead of three into one. They are then left there a few days to swell out and dry and then they are topped. After they are topped they are left a while and about nine o'clock after the dampness has gone we gathered them up in bushel baskets and stored them away and some are sent to market.

CLARENCE W. BARR.

Sunday Service

We usually have different pastors who come down to address us on Sundays at our services in the afternoon. A few Sundays ago we had the pleasure of having with us Rev. Mr. Huxtable who gave us a very interesting sermon, his text being, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and will open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me," this being found in Revelations 3:20. Mr. Huxtable remembers that he was once a boy himself and with that idea in view he made it very interesting for all that heard him. He says we can tell what kind of people live in certain houses by their doors; I mean those people who have had their houses built just the way they wanted them. The doors to some of these houses just speak right out and invite you to come in; others would be built so narrow that you would hardly expect to be invited in. He explained to us the different kinds of streets which he has been through and some of the houses which he has been in, some of these having the front doors and windows wholly closed up, and seldom ever being opened up, and when they were opened the rooms were found so musty and close that no one could bear to stay in them. He also told us how when in such a house he never felt at home. This he likened unto our hearts and to those who always live in the back part where no light ever enters, always living in the dark part, never seeing the light which the Lord tries to show us, and a number of other things of interest. When Mr. Huxtable comes here he usually, as he did this time, brings some friends of his who he knows would be interested to see this place, and whom we are always pleased to show about the gardens, cottages, shop, etc.

LEO THOMAS DECIS.

Writing for the Beacon

In the first schoolroom we take turns in writing for the BEACON. In the morning on one Friday the morning boys write and on the next Friday the afternoon boys write. We generally take up the last three-quarters of an hour. The day before we write, Miss Strong asks us to mention topics about our work and play and then she tells us something to write about and asks us to think about it ready to write the next day. We select our own subjects and write them out with a pencil first then re-write them carefully with pen and ink. We do not know whether our articles are good enough or not until we get the BEACON. It is easier for some boys to write than others so their names appear oftener.

CHARLES F. SPEAR.

Mr. Humphreys' Talk

On Sunday Sept. 10, the boys gladly welcomed Mr. Humphreys who came down with a number of his friends, two of whom gave us very good music. Mr. Humphreys' talk was on Moral Character. He gave us a very good idea of moral character by a story of a young man who had received a good education from his father. His father died when he was a young man, and he thought he would go out and try to help other young men of his own age, thinking that the instructions that his father gave him would keep him from falling into bad habits. When he went out with those young men he did not have enough moral courage to resist the temptations. Years after that same man was a drunkard with the respect of no one. Had this young man stayed at home with his friends until his habits had become more firmly fixed and not thrown himself into the way of temptations before he was sure of his standing, he would have had enough moral courage to resist all the temptations of the barroom and have become an honest and upright citizen of his country, respected by every one he knew. But he did not and so found a drunkard's grave. Mr. Humphreys thinks that the best thing a young man starting out in the world could have is moral character and courage, then he can go on with a good chance of succeeding. Mr. Humphreys closed his talk by repeating a part of "Thanatopsis", one of William C. Bryant's greatest poems. C. ALFRED H. MALM.

A stumble may prevent a fall.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

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Things for Boys to Think About

By Booker T. Washington

You cannot afford to do a thing poorly. You are more injured in shirking your work or half doing a job than the man for whom you are working.

Do not think that life consists of dress and show. Remember that one's life is measured by the power that that individual has to make the world better.

Lay hold on something that will help you, and then use it to help somebody else.

Show me a person who merely does as a duty what he is asked to do and I will show you a person who is never in constant demand,- a person who is not going to be very valuable to humanity.

A person cannot succeed in anything without a good, sound body- a body that is able to stand up under hardships, that is able to endure. A great many of our young men, especially in the larger cities, undermine their constitutions, and to a great extent throw away their usefulness, because they do not understand how to take care of their bodies. Do not keep late hours. Have a time to go to bed, and have enough self-control to say to those who persuade you to dissipate, "My time for rest has come and you must excuse me."

Learn all you can, but learn to do something, or your learning will be useless.

You will gain a great deal if in all the work that you perform, whether cleaning a lawn, laying off a furrow, building a chest, drawing a plan or studying a lesson, you are perfectly conscientious. If you choose these three lines on which to rest your lives,- truthfulness, honesty and conscientious performance of duty, your future success is assured.

A person must be able to earn his living before he can be of much benefit to himself and the community in which he lives.

If you are at the head of a stable or barn, plan day by day how best to provide for your horses and cows. When you make yourself master of these humble positions, you will find that the higher calls will soon come to you.

We should not permit our grievances to overshadow our opportunities.

It is not very hard to find a person who

will speak good and kind words and be unselfish when speaking before an audience; but the way to test a person's real character is to notice his treatment of those who come into daily contact with him, how he speaks to his companions when his voice is not heard by the public.

It is a good practice for a person to get in the habit of making an examination of himself day by day, to see to what extent his thoughts have dwelt on those things which are high, and to what extent he has permitted himself to yield to the temptation of being low, in his thoughts and imaginings.

There is no better test by which you can judge of a person's culture, civilization, or whatever you may call it, so quickly and so accurately as by the way in which that person respects authority and obeys orders.

The average boy usually has the idea that if he were just somewhere else, in another state or in contact with somebody else, he would succeed, forgetting too often to utilize the forces that are about him and in hand.

Get hold of the spirit of helping somebody else. Seek every opportunity to make somebody happier and more comfortable. Never get to the point where you will be ashamed to ask anybody for information. The ignorant will always be ignorant if he fears that by asking another for information he will display ignorance. Better once display your ignorance of a certain subject than always know nothing of it.

The boy who goes to school with no special plan, who has no time to study this or that, who has no regular hour for eating or sleeping,- you will find that very soon that student will be left behind. No matter how brilliant or active a mind he has, success can only come by planning work.

I have often thought, especially when travelling from city to city through the north, what a good thing it would be to establish a chair in some strong university for the art of scrubbing,- yes, the common, homely art of scrubbing. Seldom do we see clean floors; the art seems to have passed away.

If you want to put yourself in demand, make up your mind that you are going to give as few excuses as possible.

If you are milking cows and feel that you know all that there is to be known about it, you have simply reached the point where you are useless and unfitted for the work.

It is not very hard to find people who will thoroughly clean a room that is going to be occupied, or wash a dish that is to be handled by strangers; but it is a hard thing to find a person who will do a thing right when the eye of the world is not likely to rest upon whatever is done. The cleaning of rooms has a great deal to do with forming one's character.

Notes

Oct. 1. Very light frost, the first of the season.

Howard and Merton Ellis passed the day here.

Oct. 2. Shingled the ladder house.

Former assistant superintendent, John C. Anthony, passed the night here.

Oct. 3. Started a fire in the basement furnace.

William Winters gave us two young goats.

Oct. 4. Band of street musicians consisting of a harp, violin and piccolo entertained the boys in the afternoon.

Oct. 5. Repairing the hard water pump.

Mr. Benjamin James, Jr., began sending us the American Cultivator.

Finished painting the dormitories and main halls.

Oct. 6. Visiting Day. 174 present. Manager Mr. Henry S. Grew here, also graduates Leroy S. Kenfield, Harold E. Brenton, John C. Small and George A. Bennett.

Oct. 8. The jury and some of the other officers of Cottage Row attended church in town.

Oct. 9. Fall term of school began.

Oct. 10. Leslie R. Jones entered the School.

Oct. 11. Squad of boys went in the Pilgrim to Central Wharf to see the battleship "Olympia" in the upper harbor.

Oct. 12. Long distance telephone number changed to 378 Dorchester.

Oct. 14. Through the kindness of Mr. Henry S. Grew nearly all of the boys and a number of the instructors viewed the Dewey parade from a building on State Street, going and coming in a special car. Lunch was served in the building.

Oct. 15. Mr. Reed conducted the services in the afternoon.

Oct. 16. Treasurer Mr. Alfred Bowditch and manager Mr. Francis Shaw visited the School.

A dory and other wreckage from the schooner "Two Forty" came ashore. The schooner was a Gloucester fisherman bound in and was sunk near buoy No. 7 at 6.30 P. M. by an outward bound tramp steamer. There were eleven in the schooner's crew, one man was killed and three drowned.

Oct. 18. Miss Vora Burpee and her pupils from Hyde Park gave an entertainment in the evening which consisted of readings, music and tableaux. Hope and Ruth Crowell, sisters of Carl Crowell, one of our pupils, took prominent parts.

Oct. 20. Some of the boys attended the Food Fair.

Oct. 21. New double doors made with sash for basement in Gardner Hall. This will be appreciated by the blacksmith class during dark afternoons.

Oct. 22. Harvest concert.

Oct. 24. Finished getting in the corn.

Furnace man inspecting and putting the furnaces in order for the winter.

Semi-annual election of officers of Company X, L. T. L. which resulted as follows:

Seniors: Pres., Dana Currier; Vice Pres., William C. Carr; Sec., C. Alfred H. Malm; Treas., Samuel F. Butler; Color Bearer, Charles McKay. Juniors: Pres., Daniel Murray; Vice Pres., John Tierney; Sec., Barney Hill Jr.; Treas., Samuel A. Waycott.

Oct. 27. Graduate L. F. Vinto made us a call.

Oct. 28. Miss Strong invited seven of the choir boys to attend the Food Fair.

Graduates Hobart W. French and William G. Cummings spent the afternoon at the School.

Oct. 29. Graduates William N. Phillips, John A. Lundgren, Howard and Merton Ellis called.

Oct. 30. Steamer PILGRIM hauled out at Lawley's for fall overhauling and her winter sheathing.

Oct. 31. Heavy northeast storm. CHILTON made a trip at night.

A number having spoken at different times about a School lapel button, the Superintendent submitted several designs to the manufacturers and one which Mr. Littlefield had designed was adopted and has been received. They can be had upon application to the Secretary of of the Alumni Association, William G. Cummings, 19 Milk Street, Boston, at cost, or of The Farm School Trading Co., at the School. The button representing the School colors, yellow and blue, is of gold with the monogram F S in gold set in a blue enamel field. Those who are or have been connected with the School, either as instructor or pupil, are entitled to wear them.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Oct. 1st, 1899,	$346.21
Deposited during the month	46.02
	$392.23
Withdrawn during the month	25.53
Balance Nov. 1st. 1899.	$366.70

The Island Pleasure Association Banquet

One of the most popular recreations that most clubs or associations indulge in is a banquet. The Island Pleasure Association has just celebrated its first Anniversary by giving one that the members determined should overshadow all others, and this every one who was present thinks has been the case. On Sept. 11, it was decided to have a banquet and a committee of three was chosen to arrange for it. Money was raised among the members until what was thought to be a sufficient sum was reached. On Monday Sept. 18, four boys went over to the city to make purchases for it. They came back each bearing bundles and one a large basket full. Invitations were sent to all the instructors, and all but three were present. At nine o'clock in the evening those invited came out to Gardner Hall where the banquet was held. When they first appeared the club band played until Mrs. Bradley arrived and then the President, Ernest Curley, escorted her to her chair. Then we all gathered at the tables and after Mr. Reed, Miss Winslow and one of our members had made short speeches the dinner began. There were two waiters each dressed in white who served us and who looked very neat. After the dinner was over a toast was called for from each guest, some of which would compete in brevity with Cæsar's famous message. Mr. Bradley gave us a very good talk on doing good and doing it in a plain, straightforward way without letting it be known. After the toasts were given the tables were placed at one side of the hall and while the Club Band played, the guests enjoyed themselves by dancing. At half past eleven the guests took leave and the members, after seeing everything snug, went into the house, getting to bed at about a quarter to twelve o'clock. The next morning some of the boys got up early and went out to the Hall to clean up, but this was not finished until eight o'clock in the morning. Only $3.52 was spent by the club, though much more would have been necessary had it not been for the many kindnesses shown by Mr. and Mrs. Bradley.

SAMUEL F. BUTLER.

An Added Word about Nutmegs

By MRS. LUCRETIA A. CULLIS.

God does not stop with making things useful in his world, he makes them beautiful also. We have his word for it when he spoke of the lilies, "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

I have traveled in the land of the Dutch, in the East Indies, and so when I read in your BEACON how plenteous the nutmegs grew and where- and what an article of commerce they were, I felt like adding a word about the beauty of the tree. Its height is not great, but the tree is symmetrical, almost cone-shaped. The leaves are dark green and very glossy, much like the leaf of the japonica. The covering of the nut is a light yellow and when it bursts a thing of beauty is revealed. The nut itself is of a dark purple color and the mace which covers it like lace work, is of bright scarlet. So you can imagine what a lovely sight it must be at this ripening stage, these beautifully colored opening pods in contrast to the opening leaves.

Since visiting your School I have felt a deep interest in your paper that chronicles your doings, and when I read I pray that every boy may grow up manly and God-fearing to be an honor to the School, the family and the state.

Religion of the Chinese

The Chinese religion is mainly a dim fear of the ill-luck from the vengeance of some gloomy deity. Worship, in the proper sense of the word, they know nothing of. The ceremonies at the joss-houses appear to be an effort to guess the future by the toss or burning of little sticks. They hope also on certain great days to please the wooden idol by burned perfumes or with a multitudinous snap of millions of fire-crackers. But they are not wedded to paganism by a priestly system. They are eager to learn our language; gladly attend Sunday-schools, where they are taught to read in the New Testament, recite passages of Scripture, and the Commandments. The charity of the Christian religion impresses them deeply, and the blessed immortality brought to light in the Gospel is to them new as it is inconceivably desirable.

Alumni

Hobart W. French, '78, who was recently elected president of the Farm School Alumni Association, made us a call a few days since. His first experience on leaving the School was on a farm in East Weymouth, then on milk routes about Boston and later in the abattoir at Brighton. While there he accepted a position with G. F. & E. C. Swift, the wholesale beef house, West Washington St., New York City and later had charge of their carpentry department in Philadelphia, making refrigerators, crates, &c. At this time he and several friends became interested in army life and determined to become soldiers. They were examined but he was the only one among them who was accepted. He enlisted and went to a military training school at St. Louis for three months, then joined Custer's 7th Regiment U. S. Cavalry, Troop D and served there about two years when he was wounded, was discharged from service and came East. He married a Brighton girl by the name of Katherine Bulle. They have a bright boy of twelve years and the home life is of the happiest. Mr. French was in the insurance business for about ten years, representing three of the leading companies in the districts of Chelsea, Woburn, Boston, E. Boston and Cambridge, until two years ago. He now is travelling salesman for Smith & Graham, wholesale and retail jewelers, Jewelers' Building, Boston. Mr. French and his family spent the summer in Maine, their home address being 35 Cottage St., Chelsea.

William N. Phillips, '94, who enlisted as musician in the 8th Massachusetts regiment and was later detailed as body guard to Maj. Gen. Ludlow, now military governor of Havana, is now in the employ of Plummer Brothers, grocers, 37 Decatur St., East Boston. His home address is 32 Decatur St.

William G. Cummings, '98, we have always considered one of our progressive young graduates. He is still with the law firm of Herbert & Quincy, 19 Milk Street, and Will seems to think his life work will be in this line. With this idea in view he attends the evening Law School at the Y. M. C. A. in addition to his regular duties, beside very ably filling his position as secretary of the Farm School Alumni Association.

Alumni Notice

A meeting of the Farm School Alumni Association will be held at the School on Thanksgiving Day.

The boat will leave the Park Pier, City Point, South Boston, at 10 o'clock A. M. sharp. Immediately upon the arrival of the boat at the Island the alumni meeting will be held in the "First School Room" and adjourn in time for the dinner. The business of this meeting will consist of signing the constitution, the payment of initiation fees, the election of a Membership Committee, etc. In the afternoon a rugby game will be played between the School and Alumni teams, and the boat will leave the Island about 4.30 P. M.

A most enjoyable day is expected and we all look forward to seeing many of the old boys present.

William G. Cummings,
Secretary.

Thanksgiving

Graduates are cordially invited to spend Thanksgiving at the School. The steamer will leave our landing at Marine Park at 10 o'clock. As it is presumed quite a number will be present only graduates or graduates with their wives and children will be expected. Those accepting the invitation will please inform Mr. Bradley by card or letter on or before Saturday November 25 that ample arrangements may be made for the pleasure of all.

The boy who respects his mother has leadership in him. The boy who is careful of his sister is a knight. The boy who will never violate his word, and who will pledge his honor to his own heart, and change not, will have the confidence of his fellows. Be the soul of honor, love God first, and your neighbor as yourself, and people will give you their hearts, and delight to make you happy. *Hezekiah Butterworth.*

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 8. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. December 1899.

Every-day Work

At a quarter of five in the morning Mr. Long wakes up the milkers and kitchen boys. The milkers get the milk pails and go down to the barn and milk the cows. The kitchen boys fix the fires and help get the breakfast ready. At twenty minutes of six the bugler gets ready to sound "Reveille" at a quarter of six. After the boys go down to the wash room and wash they have until breakfast time to play, except the dining room boys who come in and serve out the bread and other things for the boys' breakfast. We have our breakfast at half past six. At seven o'clock the steamer, wharfinger, office, kitchen, dining room and farm boys go to work. There are six dining room boys, four in the boys' dining room and two in the instructors' rooms. They wash the dishes, scrub the floors and get the boys' and the instructors' dinner on the tables. There are four boys that work in the kitchen in the morning where they wash the dishes that are used in cooking. Then they scrub the floor and help to get the vegetables ready to be cooked. The bakery boy makes the bread, gingerbread, cookies, cooks the beans, etc. The farm boys help to get in the crops and do general farm work, as weeding and haying. There is a boy that takes care of the hens and chickens and keeps the henhouse clean. The wharfingers clean up the wharf and beaches. There are three boys who work on the steamer. They shine the brass and scrub and clean the decks. Some boys play from seven to half past. Then the sewing room boys come to the sewing room and clean the lamps, then mend our clothing. The laundry boys report to the laundry and wash and iron the clothes. The dormitory boys make the beds and clean the dormitories up. The shop boys and printing office boys go to their respective work. The printing office boys get the BEACON out and do job work for people in the city. The shop boys do the carpentering, blacksmithing, painting and cobbling. There are three classes in sloyd. The boys in the third class go every morning except Saturday and Sunday. The first class meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from one to a quarter past two and the second class on Wednesday and Friday at the same time. The third class is in session from half past seven to a quarter of nine o'clock, when the boys come out and wash, shine their shoes and make themselves tidy for school which opens at nine o'clock. The boys going to school in the morning work in the afternoon and vice versa. There are two school rooms which are swept and dusted by two boys who pass out the books and the material needed. The morning session of school closes at half past eleven. The boys that go to school in the morning and do not go to sloyd or other places work for Mr. Chamberlin. They do the pumping, the sweeping of the hall, sheds and plank walk, the picking up of the lawns, the raking of the avenues and all cleaning necessary. At a quarter past eleven the bell rings for the boys to assemble in the shed and get ready for dinner. We have our dinner at half past eleven. At twelve o'clock a new set of dining room, kitchen and wharfinger boys go to work. We have an hour for play from twelve to one o'clock and at one P. M. we are again despatched to our several places of work. On Monday the blacksmith class works from one till five o'clock. The afternoon session of school is from half past two to five o'clock. At five o'clock the bell rings for the boys to get ready for their supper. Then the milkers and henhouse boy go to help do the chores. The

henhouse boy feeds the hens and chickens and collects the eggs and brings them to the kitchen. Beside our regular work there are twenty-five boys who may be called upon to row in the boats. Most of the boys enjoy their work and are changed about once in six months or a year. Our supper time is from half past five to six and from six till seven we enter into our sports again. Those who neither step in the reading room nor have their clothes changed or mended, after meeting in the first schoolroom, go to bed at half past seven except on chapel nights or some other special occasion. In winter the small boys go to bed at half past six. I am henhouse boy.

JOHN T. LUNDQUIST.

The Stereopticon Lecture

Through the kindness of Mr. Humphreys we were recently shown some very interesting pictures of Mexico through which he has traveled. As each picture would come along he would tell us all about it. The first picture was of President Diaz of Mexico. Mr. Humphreys said he thinks that Mr. Diaz is the greatest man now living, a greater man even than Dewey. Mr. Diaz was the hero of more than fifty battles, was wounded fifty times and captured seven times, each time finding some means of escape. He has been president of Mexico fourteen years. We were shown the place where Maximilian and his two favorite generals were shot. We also saw Santa Anna's grave. He was the hero of more defeats than battles. In another picture was shown the burial chamber. This was a large wall divided into small oblong boxes open at one end. The body of a person was put into one of these places and then it was closed. Another picture showed the catacombs. In here all along a narrow hall underground were bodies standing up on each side, which have been there for hundreds of years. At the end of this hall were a number of them piled up together. Several other pictures showed the common Mexicans and their dwelling-places which are nothing but shanties with a thatched roof. They will keep out the wind but not the rain. Then he showed us the great palace and the large cathedral which looked very fine. We saw the large and fine looking hotel in which he staid a week. It looked very well from the outside, but the people who kept it did not know what it was to keep a place clean on the inside. The next picture was of the floating gardens. He had some doubts as to whether they were floating or not, but they yielded very fine vegetables, three crops each year. Among the other pictures was one of a long avenue. It is two hundred feet wide and several miles in length with large trees all the way on either side. Mr. Humphreys said it is the widest and best avenue he ever saw. The next picture was of the penitentiary where the criminals are kept. This is a round brick building with an area in the centre of it. The prisoners come to this area to sun themselves. All the criminals are kept together, from the one that stole a cent to the one that committed murder. All they have to sleep on is a blanket and the floor. After this we saw the three high mountains in Mexico which he went up. Then he showed us a picture of a large palace situated on a high and very steep hill, the name of which is Chapultepec. It is used as a fortress and a military school. The only way this place can be reached is by going through a tunnel at the base of the hill and then proceeding up to the place in an elevator. When the elevator is destroyed no one can get up there. Several other pictures showed us the markets, a family bathing and a number of important buildings in Mexico. In the middle of the lecture Mr. Humphreys stopped and his son played on the piano. The last picture that was shown was what he called the queen and her escort; then the picture was thrown on the canvas of his wife and himself. There was a loud clapping of hands and then Mr. Bradley thanked Mr. Humphreys in behalf of the School for the interesting lecture.

WILLIAM AUSTIN.

Fair seem these winter days, and soon
Shall blow the west wind of the spring
To set the unbound rills in tune,
And hither urge the blackbird's wing.

Whittier.

"The Volunteer Orchestra"

A fine musical program was enjoyed by us all recently when Harold E. Brenton and LeRoy S. Kenfield, two graduates of this School, came and brought with them some of their friends from the different orchestras about town. This orchestra which they styled the Volunteer Orchestra was made up as follows:-

John B. Fielding	Conductor and Violin.
George H. Quinn	Violin.
John E. Cole	Violin.
G. Gibson	Violin.
Arthur E. Harris	Violin.
George E. Stevens	'Cello.
Joseph Thomas	Bass.
Charles K. North	Flute.
Fred S. Robbins	Clarinet.
F. D. Record	Clarinet.
George Gill	Bassoon.
Harold E. Brenton	Cornet.
Herbert W. Treet	Cornet.
LeRoy S. Kenfield	Trombone.
Frank E. Dodge	Drums & Traps.

It would be impossible to single out any one number as more enjoyed than another for we were delighted with it all. After we had listened to the muisc for an hour and a half, which seemed no more than half an hour as the time actually flew listening to the music they rendered, Mr. Bradley thanked them for being so kind as to come here and then we were dismissed. Mr. Bradley then showed the party about and they seemed to be very much interested in the different things which they saw.

The program was as follows:-

OVERTURE *Suppe.*

LIGHT CAVALRY

PICCOLO SOLO Mr. C. K. NORTH *Damare.*

THE LARK

SELECTION *Bendix.*

NORTH and SOUTH

WALTZ *Strauss.*

MORGENBLATTER

XYLOPHONE SOLO Mr. F. E. DODGE *Dodge.*

INTRICACIES

SELECTION Il TROVATORE *Verdi.*

MARCH *Sousa.*

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER

SELECTION

RUSTICONE

and an intermezzo from Mascagni's best known opera.

Mr. John B. Fielding the conductor is from the Boston Theatre orchestra.

LEO T. DECIS.

A W. C. T. U. Visit

On Sunday November 19 we had the pleasure of a visit from the South Boston Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The president, Miss Abbie C. Brooks, presided and said she was very sorry that she was unable to have Mrs. Rice with them to speak to us. First we sang a temperance song "A Harvest Hymn" then one of the ladies made a prayer, then Miss Brooks, Mrs. Henderson and Miss Hersey spoke very interestingly on the subject of temperance and told us what they are trying to do. The secretary, Mrs. Ada B. Frisbee, who is greatly interested in our Company X, brought several members of Company M with her and had her girls sing two or three selections. Miss Sadie Bell sang a solo, Miss Marion Bell recited "Guilty or not Guilty" and Miss Genie Sharp recited "The Last Hymn."

SAMUEL F. BUTLER.

Playing Tag

After meals, at noon or at night, a few boys will go up in the hall, take off their coats, get up on the horizontal ladder and say, "Come on and have a game of tag." One boy will stay down on the floor till the others are ready, then he gets on the ladder. He will tag some boy and they will pass it along. When a boy who is tagger comes up to another boy he will say, "I'm it, lookout!" And then he will go to tag him. Just then the boy will drop from the ladder and get up again. The way they get up is like this. The slanting ladder, which is attached to the horizontal ladder, has rounds so a boy can get hold of one round and then another and pull himself up to still another. A game of tag is great sport.

GEORGE G. NOREN.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

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The Duty of Being Cheerful

We often speak of the duty of making others happy, of some one's ability to make sunshine, but we are not so accustomed to think of the duty of being happy ourselves. This is a time of special good cheer, when faces look brighter than is wont and we hope not to mar any of that brightness by telling you that cheerfulness is a duty. The poet's words are encouraging,

"Laugh and the world laughs with you,
Weep and you weep alone,
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Laugh and the hills will answer;
Sigh and it's lost on the air."

No day should pass, we say, that we do not help to make some life brighter, some path smoother, some heart lighter. We can do this best by continually throwing out sunshine from our own countenances. What though there are little pains in the heart, if we smile through the tears we choke back, how much more heavenly that smile. If our duties are rough and uninteresting we may help to give them a much different aspect by the willingness and cheerfulness with which we do them. If we think we have the hardest lot of any one everything will come hard to us and we shall fail to see anything bright in the world. The cloud no bigger than a man's hand will darken all the beautiful sky for us. We must strive to set aside all unpleasant thoughts and get at the secret of making sunshine in our hearts.

The boy who always wears a long face we think is either "sick of himself" and wishes he were some one else or is sick of the world and wants to die. It is the boy who always wears a smile, the one who has a bright, sunny disposition, always ready for whatever is required of him, whom we all wish to have about us and miss when he is gone.

A sunny disposition does not imply light, frivolous, careless ways, but healthy pleasure, pure thoughts and right motives. We need to gauge our lives by the lives of others, to try to find wherein we lack and cultivate those qualities which we know we are amiss in. The world is as we take it; as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he; are truths which will help us to be better and happier if we fully understand their importance.

"The truth is, there are in the ordinary life a thousand pleasant things to one which is unpleasant. It is a shame, therefore, to let the one roughness or pain spoil for us all the gladness of a thousand good things, the one discordant note mar for us all the music of the grand symphony." © L. S. Wright

On November fifteenth the floating United States Life Saving Station went out of commission for this year. Its berth during eight months of the year is only a short distance from us on the way to one of our landings in South Boston. It has been a pleasure for us to exchange courtesies with the station and we shall miss its kindly presence and the puffing of their sturdy launch on its regular nightly patrol of the harbor. Captain Glawson and his crew of nine men are faithful fellows. They have saved many lives and much property. Their presence has added another charm to the many of our island home, and teaches more noble lessons of faithfulness, sacrifice and patriotism. The captain's manly character, vigilance and discipline strengthen our confidence in men and increase our respect for the great Government which he officially represents.

Notes

Nov. 2. Regular meeting of Company X.

Heavy sea. On account of the steamer being out of commission for a few days the Harbor Master's boat, Watchman, made a trip for us bringing freight from City Point.

Nov. 4. Edwin W. Goodnough entered the School.

Steamer PILGRIM thoroughly cleaned after her overhauling at Lawley's yard.

Nov. 5. Sunday. Rev. Charles O. Day addressed the boys at 3 P. M. He was accompanied by Mr. Frank K. Nash and graduate William L. Snow.

Nov. 8. No school. Teachers visiting schools in town.

Nov. 9. Through the kind ness of Harold E. Brenton, one of our graduates, an orchestra of fifteen pieces selected from the different theatres about town came and gave us a most enjoyable concert in the afternoon. LeRoy S. Kenfield, another graduate who plays the trombone at the Boston Theatre, we were pleased to welcome as one of the party.

A horse presented to the School by President Mr. Richard M. Saltonstall.

Nov. 10. Treasurer Mr. Alfred Bowditch and Mr. Arthur Adams passed the day at the School.

Nov. 11. Manager Mr. Francis Shaw visited the School.

Nov. 12. Sunday. Mr. Reed conducted services at 3 P. M.

Nov. 16. Steamer PILGRIM towed the last of the South Boston Yacht Club floats around to their winter anchorage at the south end of our Island.

Nov. 19. Sunday. A delegation from the South Boston Woman's Christian Temperance Union conducted services at 3 P. M. They were accompanied by several members of Company M, Phillips Chapel.

Nov. 21. Load of freight, meal, etc. came.

Nov. 23. Bouquet of pansies picked from the boys' gardens.

Scow load of dressing towed from Walworth Mfg. Co.

Nov. 25. John F. Nelson entered the School.

Columbia Dredging Co., began to remove gravel from our southwest bar.

Manager Mr. Henry S. Grew and Mr. John T. Coolidge visited the School.

Foot ball team from the Mary Hemenway School, Roxbury, Capt. Robert E. Croke, played a game with our team. Score 30 to 0 in favor of the Farm School team.

Delegates previously appointed went to see Frank P. Wilcox off for the South. He sailed at eleven o'clock on the steamer "Seminole" of the Clyde Line for Charleston, S. C., and from there he goes by rail to Aiken, S. C.

Nov. 26. Sunday. Mr. Reed conducted service at 3 P. M.

Nov. 28. Thomas J. Hind's man here repairing the roof gutters and conductors.

The farmers have been working on the dikes and ditches for the past week and more.

Nov. 29. Scenery put up for the Thanksgiving entertainment.

In preparation for the Thanksgiving dinner all the seats and desks in the chapel were removed and twelve new fourteen-foot knock-down tables were completed and put in place.

Nov. 30. Thanksgiving Day. Seventy graduates here, including four with their wives and children and one with his best girl. A list of the fellows will be found on the Alumni page.

Game of foot ball at 2.30 P. M. between the Alumni and home team, the former winning by a score of 17 to 0.

Entertainment in the evening.

We are indebted to Mr. D. H. Jones, Jr. for twelve gallons of ice cream, to Mrs. C. M. Warren for fifty pies and to Mr. A. M. Stone for cream cheese for Thanksgiving.

Heard on the Campus

O my son, I wish I could do what Brenton done!

Fellows, can you hear the pumpkins holler? Cutting up for Thanksgiving.

Fatten up those turkeys.

One fellow while playing rugby got kicked in the shin, but claims it nearly brained him.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Nov. 1st, 1899,	$366.70
Deposited during the month	12.73
	$379.43
Withdrawn during the month	71.28
Balance Dec. 1st. 1899.	$308.15

Rugby Game

As is usual on Thanksgiving Day a game of rugby was played between the School and Alumni or graduates. The graduates won the toss and took down, as our field slopes. Edwards of our team kicked the ball off and it was caught and kicked back to our twenty-five yard line. Then the scrimmage began. We started with the ball but did not gain much and it went to the graduates on downs. They rushed the ball over our goal line by continually bucking the guard and centre. We lined up again and the School kicked off. The graduates got the ball and started in with a scrimmage. The rest of the half was finished by the ball going from one side to the other on downs. A ten minutes intermission was given between the halves with the score 6 to 0 in favor of the graduates. The second half was started by the graduates kicking the ball off to the School team. It was rushed to the centre of the field and there held. It went to the graduates on downs. The graduates rushed it up for a touch down and goal. The ball was put in play again and the graduates got one more touch down and a goal kick. The score was 17 to 0 in favor of the graduates. The graduates were much the heavier team but it was an all around good game.

The line up was as follows:-

GRADUATE		SCHOOL
Mason, A. A.	F. B.	Curley, E.
Hart, Wm.	R. H.	Carr, Jo .
Galeucia, W.	L. H.	Webber. S.
Pulson, C.	Q. B.	Austin, Wm.
Buchan, G.	C.	Ladd, A.
Tinkham, S.	L. G.	Maxwell, R.
Pedgrift, W.	R. G.	Currier, D.
LeBlanc, E.	L. T.	Harris, F.
Hart, H. A.	R. T.	Brown, T.
Gerry, B. F.	L. E.	McKay, C.
Nilson, N. G.	R. E.	Edwards, C.

THOMAS BROWN.

The Kids

Willie Winters recently sent us two young goats. They came at night when we were milking. It was dark when they came and we thought there was only one, for one is as black as coal and the other is black and white. After they had been here a few days they would jump over the pen which is about four feet high. When you chase them they will stand still and you will think you have them sure, but just as you go to hold them they will quickly move out of the way and you will probably fall on your face.

CLARENCE W. WOOD.

Shop Work

We have done quite a lot of work in the shop lately. The ash house has been repaired; all the old shingles that were broken have been taken off and new ones put on. The old doors in the shop basement were broken so badly that new ones had to be made; the old doors were paneled, but the new ones were made of two layers of pine sheathing and will have two windows which give more light to the basement. A screen has been made; it is of oak and is covered with white canvas. It is to be used in the dormitory. A lot of new lumber came last week. All of the main rack in the basement is filled now. The iron bars that help hold the timbers together in the new barn cellar have been fixed and a new rod put in which makes the barn stronger. The furnace in the shop has been cleaned and the old zinc which went over the stove pipes has been taken down and galvanized iron put in its place.

DANA CURRIER.

Sports

All our sports have a time during the year when they are entered into with spirit. In the spring we have marbles, tops, jack-stones, jumping ropes, kites, darts, bows and arrows and egg-gathering. In summer we have baseball, cricket, croquet, making, rigging and sailing boats, hoop rolling and swimming. Baseball includes scrub, sides, knock up and catch. "Scrub" may seem a strange name, but nobody here knows its origin although most of us played it before we entered this School. We also play King Philip in which nearly all our number take part. In the fall we play rugby and association and in the evening we play drop in, hide-and-go-seek, hill-dill-come-over-the-hill, and many others of the more common outdoor games. In winter we have skating, hockey on the ice, tobogganing, coasting, snowball fights and spend the evenings in the gymnasium. We put the shot at all times during the year that it is fit to. We make windmills and pin wheels whenever there is a strong wind. Nearly all of the boys know how to swim and skate.

WILLIAM I. ELLWOOD.

Bundles

Every Visiting Day the boys' relatives and friends come down and bring with them a lot of candies and fruits which the boys are very glad to get. When their friends go the boys put their bundles, as they call them, away in their drawer, and every morning at about a quarter past six all the boys that want bundles line up in the upper shed and march in through the schoolroom into the drawer room where the boys keep their bundles and take out all they care for, for that time. Just before supper those who want to go up and get bundles march up again. This goes on for a week sometimes after Visiting Day, and sometimes not so long; but I am always one of the boys who go up for bundles the most, as I have a good lot. Very often some of the boys' friends do not happen to be able to come down. In this case they have chums who divide bundles with them, and when there are boys who have no friends at all the other boys who have an extra lot always give all who will take any, all they will take. There are six months in the year when we have no Visiting Days; then the boys' friends send bundles and on the holidays they get the most. It is when they are called up to the office and have their bundles opened to see all the nice things that are in them that they are happy.

FREDERICK P. THAYER.

Black Beauty, the Cat

Black Beauty came the last Visiting Day and he was brought here to one of the boys in a basket. Then he was put in a small cage to keep him from running away. He was put in the reading room but he soon took a liking to the kitchen. At first he tried to jump up on the table but after trying it once or twice we broke him of that. He likes to jump up in a chair and curl himself up in a ball and you would at first think he was dead the way he holds his head. When Fanny comes in Black Beauty bristles himself all up and begins to spit at the dog until she goes out. He likes to be petted and fooled with. He is a very good cat. He has caught a good many rats and mice while he has been here. WILLIAM M. ROBERTS.

Alumni

HENRY O WILSON, '89. At 8 o'clock in the evening of July 29th Henry was married to Miss Lucilla P. Pickering at the home of the bride in Newington, N. H. A younger sister of the bride acted as bridesmaid and Frank Burgess, another of our graduates, was best man. Henry has a home at 39 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N. H.

JOHN P. ACKERS, '90, on October 12th was married to Miss Adeline Wellington Morse in St. John's Memorial Chapel, Cambridge. It was a quiet affair, only relatives and intimate friends of the party being present. The Episcopal service was used. The bride looked very handsome in a light gray cloth suit trimmed with white lace, wore a large black hat and carried a boquet of lilies of the valley and maidenhair fern. After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride, directly after which the happy pair took the train for a trip to Montreal and New York. Mr. and Mrs. Ackers will reside at 680 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. John has been with the firm of Pettingill & Co., Advertising Agency, 22 School Street, Boston, nearly eight years where he has received substantial recognition of his faithful and efficient services.

FRANK P. WILCOX, '92. On account of his health Frank has been compelled to leave his studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and go South for a season. Frank is counted one of our most promising fellows. He came to the School in February, '87 and in '92 went to live with his mother and entered the English High School, working outside of school hours to assist in paying his way. He was graduated in '96, standing second in a class of ninety-eight. Mrs. Bradley had the pleasure of seeing him go to the platform for seven special prizes. That season he came back to the School to work and study preparatory to entering Technology, which he did on the opening of the Institute the fall of '97. He has ranked high in his classes, gaining the esteem of students and professors. He is taking the Civil Engineering course and last summer went to Narragansett Pier surveying during vacation. While there he contracted a cold about the middle of August, and on his return to his studies it developed into a serious lung trouble. As soon as his condition became known, the Managers of this School and his friends took his case in hand and as a result he has gone to Aiken, South Carolina, where, with the excellent care which the Managers will provide, it is hoped he will recover and be back in school another year, fully able to go on with the work he is so ambitious to complete.

HARRY H. LEONARD, '99, has employment with Burditt and Williams, wholesale and retail hardware dealers, 20 Dock Sq. and lives with his mother at 2 Greenwich Street, Roxbury.

Thanksgiving

Graduates who spent the day here.

Austin, Arthur	Horsfall, Wm. A.
Bete, John E.	Lind, Charles A.
Beuttner, Lewis C.	LeBlanc, Elkanah D.
Blanton, Robert	Leonard, Harry H.
Bryant, Frank G.	Loud, Clarence W.
Buchan, George	Lundgren, John A.
Byers, George W. E.	Marshall, Edwin L.
Clattenburg, E. E.	Mayott, George
Colby, Horatio A.	McKeever, Walter
Cummings, William G.	McKeever, James L.
Davis, Willie	Odiorne, William
Dixon, Royal E.	O'Neil, John W.
Dutton, Almon	Page, Chauncey
Ellis, Howard B.	Peabody, Wm. I.
Ellis, Merton P.	Pedgrift, Wm. J.
English, Harry A.	Powers, Joseph
Estes, Clarence	Pratt, Albert E.
Fairbairn, Thomas	Pulson, Clifford W.
Frasier, Frederick N.	Robinson, Joseph C.
French, Hobart W.	Sargent, John Scott
Galeucia, Wm. F.	Small, John C.
Gerry, Benjamin F.	Snow, Wm. L.
Hart, Herbert A.	Taylor, George M.
Hart, William D.	Tinkham, Selwyn G.
Hartman, George K.	Trail, Albert J.
Hefler, Alden B.	West, Elbert L.
Hefler, Clarence F.	Winters, Wm. B.

Think of many things, do only one.

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 9. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. January 1900

Our Animals

The animals we have are not all for work, some are to help feed us while others are for pleasure. I think the horse is the most important animal we have. There are five in all, four of them are for the heavy work on the farm and the other is used in the carriage and light buggy. They are taken care of by Mr. McLeod and myself. We clean them off every morning at five o'clock and Mr. McLeod feeds them with hay, bran and meal. At noon and at night they are fed just the same and are watered at morning, noon and night. The two heavy horses which we use in the double team and the oxen have been worked pretty hard on the dikes at the south end of our island, strengthening them. The cows are the next important animals, twenty-two in all. We milk only eighteen of them now and they give from five to eighteen pounds at each milking. At five o'clock in the morning they are fed with hay and after breakfast at seven o'clock they are fed with bran and mangels; at noon they are fed with hay and again at night. In winter they are fed night and morning with cut hay and corn mixed with bran and water and in summer as soon as the grass is green enough they are put out to pasture. In the summer the cows that are giving milk are just kept in the barn long enough to be milked and fed with green feed and then they are let out into the yard to stay until after breakfast, if it is in the morning, or to stay all night if it is in the evening. We have two little heifers we are raising. Mr. Mason does not save any of the calves unless they are from the best cows. We also have a fine Guernsey bull which when young was given to William Winters, a graduate, by one of our managers, Mr. Francis Shaw. The pigs are kept down in the cellar of the storage barn and a part of their food is the waste from the house. There are twenty-two of them and they furnish us with fresh meat in the winter time.

In the line of poultry we have twelve Muscovy ducks, three Mallard ducks, fifteen turkeys and seven Bantams; then there are about forty hens, forty pullets and thirty roosters, some of which are killed during the winter for food.

Henry Bradley has a Shetland pony named Daisy, with a dog-cart and saddle to use with her which he enjoys very much, taking all the care of her himself. The dog Fanny has been here a long time. She is a full-blooded greyhound and like all her specie is very affectionate, graceful and swift of foot. The cat we have had but a short time but it did not take her long to get wonted and learn our ways. She is a beautiful black cat with not a single white or colored hair on her.

Among the most interesting animals are our pets, the rabbits, Guinea pigs, monkey, hares, goats, squirrels, carrier pigeons, peacocks, fox, raccoon, the dog and the cat. When Mr. Bradley came to the School some over eleven years ago there were not any of these animals here. Our first rabbits he gave to a boy in 1889; after that we got Nanny the goat and have kept adding other animals at different times. Our pet animals were kept in two little huts over at Cottage Row; but when we came to have so many more added a small house called Audubon Hall was built which at different times has held white rats, crows, an owl, and ferrets, beside the animals which we now have. The rabbits and Guinea pigs are kept in Audubon Hall in

summer and down in the henhouse in winter.

The monkey we have is an African pig-tail and when he first was brought here he made great fun for us, but we have seen him so much it does not amuse us now although it does visitors. About a month ago Mr. Bradley got a raccoon and a fox. The fox is a very pretty red one with bright eyes and a long bushy tail. He was captured at Weymouth, Mass. We sell pigs, carrier pigeons, rabbits, hares and Guinea pigs. One boy takes care of the poultry, another, the curator, looks after the pets.

LIST OF ANIMALS

5 Horses	3 Mallard Ducks
1 Shetland Pony	1 Dog
1 Donkey	1 Cat
2 Oxen	8 Rabbits
22 Cows	8 Guinea pigs
2 Heifers	7 Hares
1 Bull	2 Goats
22 Pigs	2 Flying Squirrels
40 Hens	40 Carrier Pigeons
40 Pullets	2 Peacocks
30 Roosters	1 Fox
15 Turkeys	1 Raccoon
12 Muscovy Ducks	1 Monkey

There are 270 animals in all.

The reason for having these pets is to give pleasure to the boys, the instructors and the people who visit the School and to give us an opportunity to study them.

FRANK W. HARRIS.

Subscribing for Youth's Companion

In October when the premium list comes most of the boys decide whether or not they will subscribe for the "Youth's Companion." Along the latter part of November all the boys who want to subscribe do so for Mr. Bradley and get premiums which they want for one subscription, and Mr. Bradley gets one for the benefit of the whole school, something like the set of Encyclopedias which are kept in the reading room. In this way the boys have a better chance for getting premiums than they had before. Near Christmas the long looked for premiums come and on the night they come the boys who have them stop and get them. Most of the boys get books; some get typewriters, presses, boats and watches.

C. ALFRED H. MALM.

Repairing the Screens

Every year the screens have to be taken in and repaired. This year I went around to the different windows that had screens on and took them off and brought them to the shop. Then the ones that did not need to be repaired were sent to the paint shop to have the screens black varnished and the frames walnut stained. As soon as they were dry they were taken to the east loft and tags were put on them telling which room they belong to. The screen was taken off and new screen put onto those that had holes in them. The screen comes in a roll and is cut off to fit the frame. There were about one hundred screens in all. Some of the screens had to have new frames made. There were about twenty-five screens that needed new wire on them. The wire came from the Clinton Steel Wire Company. Last year the screens were not all brought into the shop at once, but a few at a time. This year the screens were done better than last year.

DANA CURRIER.

The Laundry Work

The first thing in the morning at half past seven, the morning laundry boys go to work; except Monday morning when we come in after breakfast. Monday morning we do the instructors' things, Tuesday we do all the boys' sheets and pillow cases, Wednesday we do the towels, stockings and shirts. Thursday we do Room 3 things, kitchen things and old clothes. Friday we finish up what we haven't done through the week, and then one boy goes to washing windows and the rest iron. Sometimes we have quaker meetings because Miss Shaw, the woman in charge, says it makes her head ache to hear us talk too much, but the boys say they can work better when they talk. If we get our ironing done before Friday noon, the afternoon boys clean up. If they don't we come in Saturday morning and finish up. We take all the things outside like baskets and washboards that would be in the way.

When we get all the varnish, bricks and brass done we wash the floor and then we bring in all of those things again. Then we go and see if there is anything like clothes pins on the ground and put them in the clothes pin basket. One boy has to do our instructor's room, such as washing the floor and brushing the rugs. Then we go. There are four boys in the laundry.

JOHN J. POWERS.

The Fox and Raccoon

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, an interesting addition was made to our list of animals, a fox and a raccoon. They were brought to the henhouse and as it was dark they could not see, but the fox, I guess, smelled something good to eat. To his disgust he only did see darkness the first night with the raccoon, but the next night their cages were fixed so they could look at the hens. To their dismay they could only look and get a watery mouth. The raccoon is a tame fellow but the old fox is all the time showing his teeth and snarling with rage. The raccoon is a blackish grey color; the fox is red and white. At first when he came down William Carr, the curator, had a hard time giving him water or anything else; but he fixed the cage after a while so that he could feed and water him. Mr. Bradley has had two cages made for the fox and raccoon. The raccoon, no doubt, will get tame, and we hope the fox will; but they are hard animals to tame. In Vermont or New Hampshire if the people handle the bait with their hands in setting the traps, the fox will smell the blood and not go near the trap. Most trappers take bait in a shovel or something else. We feed the fox on meat, bread and corn; the raccoon has fish and other food such as the fox has.

JOHN T. LUNDQUIST.

Lobsters in the Bay

We have lobsters sometimes that are caught in the bay around us. They are caught in traps called lobster pots. There are a great number of crabs that get in these pots and the men that have the care of the pots use a piece of wood with a hook on the end of it which they jab into the crabs to get them out of the pot and to keep them from biting their fingers. We get our lobsters from a man called Lobster Joe. We had a live lobster in school one day and Miss Winslow showed and told us about the different parts of his body. A lobster has three parts to his body; head, thorax or breastplate and abdomen. He has eight pair of legs fastened to the thorax, the first three of which are used to break up the food and put it in the mouth. There are two large legs or claws right in front which he uses to catch the food, to give it to the jaw legs, and to anchor himself with. The other four pair are walking legs, the first pair of which have nippers on them. He has six pair of swimmerets which he uses to paddle himself along with. These are fastened to the abdomen and at the end of this is a tail fin which is used to steer with. He has one pair of large feelers and one pair of small ones with branches. At the foot of these small ones are the ears. The eyes are on the side of the head and are compound. He can look every way without turning his head and they are set up on stalks. The gills are where the walking legs join the body and revolve like screws. The lobster lays over a thousand eggs every season and they cling on to the swimmerets until hatched and then drop off. The lobster sheds its shell six times a year and if it gets caught anywhere by one leg it casts its leg off and another one grows.

DON C. CLARK.

Fixing the Road.

In wet weather the back road has always had gutters in the middle of it in spite of all we could do. We tried to fix it a year ago by making gutters on both sides and later by laying a pipe in the worst place. But it did not do any good. The water kept running down the middle of the road. This fall Mr. Chamberlin has laid an ackron pipe from the playground down to connect with the one that was laid before. He has also filled up the old gutters with the extra dirt from laying the pipe. When this is completed we shall put ashes on the road and roll them down and then rake gravel over all. This makes a fine hard road.

HERBERT E. BALENTINE.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME-TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

Vol. 3. No. 9. January 1900.

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Thankfulness

The spirit of thankfulness seems to be born in some people and they are always grateful for whatever is done for them even if it be a small favor. It is a pleasure to do for such people for we all like to have our efforts appreciated. There are others who do not seem to have that trait or it is so slight it is seldom seen. Such people never really enjoy life. They accept whatever comes to them as a matter of their rights. But this same spirit of thankfulness can be cultivated by any one who will look for the kind spirit that prompts the giving and the helping of one another. Above all, the spirit of thanksgiving to God, the giver of all good, should be cultivated if one's nature is not filled with it. We have a custom of calling the boys' attention to the real meaning of Thanksgiving Day and they at that time write out, unaided, what they have had to be thankful for during the year.

Below we quote a few from the first four classes in school, the first class being the highest.

FIRST CLASS. I am thankful for a home and friends, that we have not had another storm this year as bad as last November. For seeing the Dewey Parade, hearing some of the best musicians of Boston, and for the privileges that I have received

JOHN F. BARR.

First that our home has so thoroughly recovered from the effects of the great storm and for the boats which were given to replace the old ones. I am thankful that I have a mother and sister and many other friends, also for the education I am receiving at this School. For the many kindnesses shown us by the Managers in the past year, that our home has been so free from disease, that we have had abundant harvest. HERBERT E. BALENTINE.

SECOND CLASS. I am thankful for what this School has done for my brother and me, for all the privileges I have had in the past year. I am thankful that this School has such a good superintendent and instructors. I am thankful for such a nice day to celebrate, the day in which the Pilgrims gave thanks to God.

WILLIAM M. ROBERTS.

I am thankful that we have so many successful graduates, and that we have not had any real sickness in the past year. I am thankful that we have such a good home, that so many of the boys had the privilege of seeing Dewey. CHARLES A. TAYLOR.

I am thankful that I am on an island and not running in the streets of Boston. I am thankful I know how to play rugby and that I have not got hurt. I am thankful for muscle to

do work and that I am in Mr. Bradley's care. I am thankful for two sisters and an aunt, for warm clothes to wear, that Mr. Littlefield has taught me to make the sloyd models and has carried me as far as he has.

ALBERT H. LADD.

THIRD CLASS. I am thankful that all the boys could go out camping this summer and learn how to drill, that most of the boys could go over to the city to see the Dewey Parade. I am thankful that I got a double promotion. I am thankful that Brenton and Kenfield got some men that played in orchestras to come down here and play to the boys and instructors. I am thankful that I am in a good home and have all these good things, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley work so hard for us.

SAMUEL A. WAYCOTT.

Things that I am thankful for. For the Visiting Days when we all can see our friends, for the nice beds, warm clothes, good food, and for the nice times on holidays. And I am thankful for the entertainments we have had lately, and that Wilcox could go where he did and I hope he will soon be well and able to come home again. I am thankful that we did not have another great storm yesterday like the one we had a year ago. For the new steamer and for the privilege of going to Fort Warren with Company D. And, above all, for a good home where I can be brought up rightly and receive a good education.

FREDERICK P. THAYER.

I am thankful we did not have a storm as we did last year. That we have another steamer. I am thankful there are so many people watching over us. I am thankful that Mr. and Mrs. Bradley give me such good dinners. I am thankful that I am getting an education.

DANIEL MURRAY.

I am thankful for my good health and that of the other boys of the School. I am thankful for the Visiting Days, they have all been pleasant. That I am working on the farm. That we have the new steamer PILGRIM. I am thankful for the prize banner and that we have a Humane Society. I am thankful for the Camp and our summer vacation, the fire works we had the Fourth of July and for the entertainments we have had. I am thankful for my food and clothes and for the library and reading room. EDWARD B. TAYLOR.

I am thankful for having a good home and for seeing the Dewey Parade. I am thankful for the flags which the graduates gave us, for the music Brenton and some of his friends gave us.

FRED L. WALKER.

I am thankful that I have not been in the third grade once since I have been here. I am thankful that I have been able to do my work this year. I am thankful that I have done so well in school and have got so many stars, for the rides in the steamer that Mr. Bradley gave us, that I have enough to eat, drink and wear, also a good place to sleep. I am thankful for the fine entertainment we had Harvest Sunday, and that we have a new set of signals that the graduates presented us with.

ARTHUR I. PURDY.

I am thankful for this nice home in which I live and for the clothes which the School provides and the food also. I am thankful for the education that I get and the trade that I learn. I am thankful for the code of signals which the graduates gave us, and for the nice concert we had on Harvest Sunday and for the stereopticon views which we saw one evening.

LOUIS E. MEANS.

FOURTH CLASS. I am thankful for a kind mother who has always been kind to me and I am thankful that she is living. I am thankful for my clothes and the food that the kind superintendent provides me. I am thankful that my friends are good to me and that I am strong and well. I am thankful for the good education that my teachers are giving me and that I am up as high as I am in school. I am thankful that Thanksgiving Day is here again, and that we have a good and honest President, and I am thankful that this is a civilized nation and that it is situated in a suitable place on the land.

WILLARD H. ROWELL.

I am thankful that I was promoted. I am

thankful for the good home I am in and for the kind superintendent. I am thankful for the warm clothes I have and because I do not have to go hungry on Thanksgiving Day. I am thankful for the kind friends I have and for the Visiting Days in which they can come and see me. DON C. CLARK.

I am thankful that I am in a good home where I can get an education and learn to be thoughtful and honest. And for my clothes which keep me warm through the winter weather, which is very cold. I am thankful for the good superintendent who has charge of this home, and for the food that I get to eat and a good place to sleep, which some poor children do not get very often. I am thankful that I have a mother whom I can care for and a brother.

EDWIN W. GOODNOUGH.

Notes

Dec. 1. A large picture of Benjamin A. Gould, a former manager, presented to the School by Mrs. Horace McMurtrie.

Dec. 2. Dredger finished digging gravel at the South End.

Dec. 4. Lowered the topmast and housed the gaff on the main flag staff.

Dec. 6. Pianos about the house were tuned.

Dentist here for the semi-annual inspection of teeth.

We were entertained in the evening by Miss Daisy Grace Earle and friends from West Newton.

Dec. 7. Managers Mr. Francis Shaw and Mr. J. D. W. French visited the School accompanied by Mr. L. G. DeBois.

Dec. 8. Regular meeting of Company X.

Load of dressing from Walworth's.

Dec. 9. Game of football with the junior team of the Dorchester High School. Score 23 to 0 in favor of our team.

Dec. 11. Steamer PILGRIM on the blocks for a coat of paint.

Dec. 14. Cows out in fall feed for the last time.

Dec. 15. Silas Snow visited the School.

Manager Mr. J. D. W. French gave the School a Yorkshire boar.

Dec. 19. Charles H. O'Conner entered the School.

William C. Morgan left the School to live with his uncle, Mr. Comey, in Foxboro, Mass.

Dec. 20. 120 boxes of Lowney's chocolates received from Mr. Richard Bell, a graduate's contribution toward making a merry Christmas.

One lot of calendars received from W. D. C. Curtis, Secretary of the Dorchester Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Dec. 22. Fall term of school closed.

Clarence W. Wood left the School to live with his brother and work in his brother's market stall.

Sturtevant & Haley Beef & Supply Company sent their annual gift, 200 pounds of turkey for the Christmas dinner.

Dec. 23. Mr. Charles S. Hart of Concord gave the mayor of Cottage Row a donkey "for mounting the police force, for the street department or for other uses."

Two books for the library received from Mrs. A. T. Brown of Roxbury.

Dec. 24. Sunday. Christmas concert in the evening.

Dec. 25. Holiday. Distribution of presents at 10 A. M.

A lot of evergreen received from Mr. Francis S. Child of Holliston, Mass.

Dec. 26. Arthur J. Willis entered the School.

Mr. John R. Morse and graduate Mr. T. J. Evans passed the night here.

Dec. 27. Mr. John R. Morse presented the band with two pieces of band music.

Dec. 30. Graduates Albert E. Pratt and William G. Cummings came and spent Sunday at the School.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Dec. 1st, 1899,	$308.15
Deposited during the month	33.07
	$341.22
Withdrawn during the month	61.37
Balance Jan. 1st. 1900.	$279.85

Rank in Classes

The following boys ranked first and second respectively in their classes for the fall term of school.

First Class

C. Alfred H. Malm — William I. Ellwood

Second Class

George Thomas — George E. Hart

Third Class

Harold S. Taylor — Daniel Murray

Fourth Class

Willard H. Rowell — George E. Hicks

Fifth Class

William C. J. Frueh — George I. Leighton

Sixth Class

Horace P. Thasher — Frank A. Roberts

Christmas Concert Programme

Song — *Choir.*

The Message of the Bells

Christmas Greeting — *Howard L. Hinckley.*

Scripture Selections — *Class.*

Song — *Choir.*

Sing Alleluia

Christmas — *Harold S. Taylor.*

A Christmas Eve Thought — *Ernest Jorgensen.*

To Prevent a Mistake — *Thomas Maceda.*

Song — *Choir.*

Message of Christmas Time

A Christmas Thought — *John T. Lundquist.*

Christmas Gifts — *Horace P. Thrasher.*

Song — *Choir.*

Welcome Happy Christmas

Stretch it a Little — *Don C. Clark.*

Bamboozling Grandma — *William C. J. Frueh.*

Song — *Choir.*

Awake, O Slumbering Hope

Willie's Letter to Grandma — *James A. Edson.*

When Christmas Comes — *John W. Robblee.*

Exercise, Glad Tidings — *Class.*

Song — *Choir.*

Beautiful Christmas

A Message to Santa Claus — *George E. Hicks.*

The Coronation — *Phillippe J. Parent.*

Song — *Choir.*

Ring Out, Ye Merry Bells

Christmas Bells — *George G. Noren.*

Song — *Choir.*

Hear the Angels Singing

His Protest — *George A. C. McKenzie.*

Our Christmas Day — *Herbert E. Balentine.*

Song — *Choir.*

Sleep, Holy Babe

Recitation — *William I. Ellwood.*

Christmas Time Will Come Again

Remarks — *Mr. L. F. Reed.*

Song — The Glad Bells — *Choir.*

Hauling up the Yacht and Lifeboat for Winter

One Friday afternoon Miss Strong went to town so the boys in the first school room had no school. After the second school room boys went up to school the first school room boys went down to haul up the yacht Winslow and the lifeboat David Sears for the winter. We took a rope and hitched it to the mast of the Winslow and then some boys pulled on the rope and the rest of us pulled. When we pulled it up to a certain place we lifted the bow up so that another boy could pull out the planks and rollers from under her; then we took different pieces of wood and piled them up on both sides so as to steady her. Then we pulled up the David Sears on two skids until we got the bow even with the Winslow's. We then went up to the house and had our fun for the rest of the day.

George G. Noren.

Getting the Dressing

A short time ago the scow went over for dressing. We started at eleven o'clock. When we got out into the channel Mr. Bradley called us down into the steamer's cabin and we had dinner. We got over to Walworth's, where we get the dressing, at a quarter of twelve o'clock and we finished loading the scow at two o'clock. Then we put some iron grates on top of the dressing. After we got done loading the scow we went all around the buildings where the men were working. We went into the moulding room and saw them moulding. We saw where they make the large Stilson wrenches. At a quarter of four we started for home. As we had a heavy load on we did not get home until a quarter of five. Then we washed and got ready for supper.

George Thomas.

Alumni

Frank P. Wilcox, '92, writes very pleasantly of his home in South Carolina, where he went recently for his health, and that he is "attending strictly to getting well." He says, "This does not come as hard as I thought it might, for, to tell the truth, I am having about as fine a time here as I have ever had." His doctor gives him much encouragement.

Harry R. Wilmot, '94, was recently heard from, his address being 682 Belmont Street, Watertown, Mass. Harry expects to enter the Valentine School of Telegraphy soon. He playes the guitar in an orchestra of 100 stringed instruments.

William D. Hart, '97, is now working for the Boston Forge Company, 340 Maverick Street, East Boston.

Selwyn G. Tinkham, '98, is at work again after laying by for a couple of weeks from an injury received while at work. Selwyn began his second year as blacksmith's apprentice in October; he has proved himself valuable to his employers, the Plymouth Cordage Company, and they have already given him a bonus of $50, in addition to his apprentice wages, on account of his ambition and previous training. We congratulate Selwyn. His address is North Plymouth, Mass.

Walter L. Carpenter, '99, has been down from Berlin, Mass., for a short visit. He likes his place with Mr. Anson Hix, and has joined the church in that town. Walter frequently sees Mr. Buxton who was formerly farm foreman here; in fact, Mr. Buxton secured this place for Walter.

Alumni Notice

According to vote of the members present at the meeting of the Farm School Alumni Association held at the School on Thanksgiving, President French has appointed the following members to act with himself, Vice-President Hermann and Secretary Cummings, as the Membership Committee: Alden B. Hefler, William L. Snow, George Buchan, F. N. Frasier and George K. Hartman. It is the duty of this Committee, according to the constitution of the Association, to investigate and report upon all applications for membership. All such applications for membership in the Farm School Alumni Association should be addressed to the President, Hobart W. French, 36 Cottage St., Chelsea, Mass., who is Chairman of the Membership Committee.

William G. Cummings, Secretary.

Teamster

We have eight teams, one pung, two carriages and one drag. Most of the time we have a two-horse team in use and when visitors are here or when Mr. Bradley, or some of the instructors, want to go for a ride they take the carriage and drive anywhere on the roads they choose to go. When there is teaming to be done we use the ox cart, two one-horse teams and the two-horse team. I drive a one-horse team and harness up in the morning; while I am harnessing up the requistion boy goes to the kitchen and finds out what is wanted and brings the order to Mr. Mason. He gives it to me and we fill it out, then take it to the kitchen. After that is done I take loads of gravel, ashes, freight, wood, coal, etc. The two-horse team is used for plowing, hauling wood and for all farm work. The drag is used for heavy things and the pung is used mostly when there is a lot of snow and ice.

Frederick F. Burchsted.

Fixing the Cottages for Winter

The boys have fixed their cottages for the cold weather. Some of them have taken seaweed and put it up against their cottages digging a small trench around them and filling it with the seaweed. They take boards and saw them the width of the windows and nail them on; they sometimes put paper or leaves between the glass and the boards. Last year some of the boys had storm doors on their cottages, which did very well in keeping out the wind and snow.

John J. Conklin.

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 10. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. February 1900.

Our Alumni Association

The efforts which for some time have been put forth in various quarters in the interests of a gathering of the Farm School graduates in an organization have at last borne fruit in the form of the Farm School Alumni Association.

This is not a new organization, and yet again it is. It really had its beginning in and is the outgrowth of the Farm School Alumni of Boston, which was organized several years ago. The present organization is, however, distinctly different in many essential points:— it starts with a new hope, a new membership and a little experience.

This organization is not to be composed of members of the School who are in and about Boston alone, but of all persons who are or shall be graduates of the Farm School.

The most essential factor necessary for the success of an organization of any kind is that there be some bond of sympathy and understanding between its members; and surely the graduates of the Farm School have such a bond. Who among all of them has visited the old home after an absence of several years and has not been surprised and delighted with the condition in which he found the whole Island? Besides the School they have one another. Who does not like to meet the old "boys" at any time? And what two having thus met ever part without asking for the others? Surely these are bonds of sympathy and understanding. These two bonds,— the School and the other fellow,—will grow more dear in future years, and the reunions of the Alumni Association will be looked forward to with more and more interest as the years pass.

The initiation fee of the Association is fifty cents, and each member is assessed one dollar a year for annual dues. The idea has been to make the fees as small as possible and still keep the organization on a reasonable financial basis. The constitution provides for one meeting a year and that others shall be held when called by the President.

A Membership Committee has been appointed by the President, whose duty it is to consider all applications for membership. This Committee covers a long period in attendance at the School, and as they know personally a great many graduates and are members who have been carefully chosen for the office, they can perform their duties ably.

Of course the hearty co-operation of every graduate of the School is needed in this matter. A few members can do but little; and while a large number can do considerable work in various lines, the Association will be incomplete if the name of every graduate does not appear on the membership list.

The Association has not started on very broad lines; but it does not intend to continue along these lines alone, as it will broaden out in various ways as the circumstances will warrant. The graduates can be more to one another in future years as they come to be more to themselves; the Association can mean more to the School and to the boys at the School; it can broaden out on its social basis; it might be made an aid financially to its members; it can expand in all its aims and objects.

All schools have their alumni organizations. The public schools of Boston have such organizations which are strengthened each year by the graduating class. Meetings or reunions are held once a year, and they are most enjoyable

affairs for their members.

Such an event as this can be made extremely interesting and pleasant in our Association as we have formed real friendships at the School and are connected by such ties as always exist in the proper home and which are fostered by the family relation.

The Thompson's Island Beacon has been chosen as the proper instrument of the organization, and we would suggest that all graduates subscribe for it. The School button is also recommended to each graduate. It is a pretty little emblem and is often useful.

The organization has started with a membership of forty, with an energetic board of officers, the hearty sympathy of the School and the Board of Managers, and our prospects are bright.

We have prepared and are forwarding to the graduates of the School a blank form of application for membership in the Association. Of course there are expenses and we need the fifty cents of every graduate, but the name, the interest, the co-operation and the support of every one at this time when we are endeavoring to place the organization on a firm and substantial basis, is thought more of than the fifty one cent pieces of the initiation fee. We trust that all the graduates will be interested enough in this matter to join the Association at once.

William G. Cummings.

Pictures of the School

We have a number of photographs, engravings and paintings in the different parts of the main building. We have nearly twenty copies from Audubon's original plates of some of the birds of America. In our dining room we have engravings of game birds, as turkeys and ducks. In the schoolrooms we have more of birds used in study, as king fisher, Carolina parrot, mocking bird and others. In the first schoolroom we have pictures of Washington, Lincoln, Grant, John D. Williams, M. C. Warren and a large painting of the Landing of the Pilgrims, also a crayon drawing of a cow's head by John D. Richards, a graduate of the School, done in 1881. In our reading room we have a picture of the Battleship Massachusetts presented to the School by the Secretary of the Navy, John D. Long, a photograph of the '99 rugby team of the graduates, a picture of all kinds of American flags taken from a painting by Edwin B. Elliot of Philadelphia, Pa., also a photograph of the School's band taken in the city May 29, 1862 after the band had played in Tremont Temple. In the second schoolroom is a large picture of Washington and his generals, all being in the uniform worn by an American general at that time. We have also large paintings of John D. Williams, one of the founders of this School, a bust and picture of Theodore Lyman, once mayor of Boston and president of our board of managers, pictures of Stephen G. Deblois and Moses Grant, both managers. Some of the pictures are pretty valuable, the drawings of Audubon being worth more than a hundred dollars. The photograph of the band was presented to the School in 1882 in remembrance of Stephen G. Deblois, by James Hutchinson, a graduate. The pictures of the managers of the School were mostly given by the present managers and are in the parlor.

C. Alfred H. Malm.

Milking

In the morning the milkers get up at twenty minutes of five, go to the kitchen and get their milk pails, go down to the barn, put on their overalls, wash their hands, brush the cows' bags and start in milking. There are four milkers and they each have certain cows to milk. When we get a cow milked we weigh the milk and take out two pounds for the weight of the pail. Then it is strained to get out all the impurities. After we finish milking we tell Mr. Mason how many pounds each cow gave and he puts it down on a record paper; at the end of each week he adds it up and hands it in to the office. At the end of the year these record papers are all added up and we know just how many pounds of milk our cows gave during the year. We have twenty-one cows. We milk the cows twice a day; once as I have already said at five in the morning and again at five at night.

Frederick F. Burchsted.

Address by Dr. Greene

On a recent Sunday Dr. Greene, the pastor of St. John's Church of South Boston, came down and gave us boys a talk. The subject was, "Be." When he gave the subject he said, "Now I want you to put two bees in each ear and after I am gone I want them to buzz just as much as though there were some real bees in there." The first be was "Be on the field." This was about Sheridan. Dr. Greene said when he was a little fellow and weighed only ninety-six pounds he was at the battle of Cedar Mountain and he was on the yankee side. The yankees were being defeated and at last one of their leaders was killed and the soldiers ran for their lives. It so happened that Sheridan was at Winchester, a town twenty miles away, and when he heard of the battle he got on his horse and rode for all he was worth. Dr. Greene said when he was ten miles away he was of no use, when he was one mile away he was of no use but when he was in front of his men he was the greatest man on earth, and so Sheridan got there and gathered his men together. They made a desperate charge and after a great struggle pushed the rebels back. But the rebels were game to the backbone and they let the yankees have it and swept away a whole lot of soldiers in the front rank; but the general shouted, "Close up men, close up men!" and then the yankees made another desperate charge and swept the rebels off the face of the earth like grass before the scythe, and then they had won the day. The next topic was, "Be broad-minded and large-hearted." He said he had a friend when he was at college who had a violin and could play two tunes on his violin and when Dr. Greene was studying he thought it sounded like this, "Look out for yourself, look out for yourself!" and that he said was the way with a narrow-minded, small-hearted man. He said he went into a church once and there was a large pipe organ and a man was seated on a stool playing it. At first it began low and sorrowful and gradually grew louder and stronger until at last it seemed as if everybody was wrapped spell-bound in its waves of music. And he said so it is with a large-hearted, broad-minded man. The next topic was, "Be ready." He said when he was at college he belonged to a boat-crew and that it had beaten Harvard, Yale, and in fact all the great colleges in the United States. Now they were going to have a race with another college of about their own size and he said the rivalry was fearful. He said not a crumb of food did they eat that was not for their benefit and when the time came there was not one fellow but what felt ready for a long pull, a steady pull and a hard pull, and when they crossed the line they were quite a way ahead of the other boat, although the other fellows were larger and stronger than they. The next topic was "Be loyal." He said at Belle Isle there were about one thousand prisoners to be exchanged. They were so weak, sick and thin they could hardly stand and walk, but the thought of home nerved them on and so after much difficulty they succeeded in getting outside of the gate. There standing on a platform was a colonel mostly gold lace and he said to one of the poor living skeletons who was a sergeant in his own company, "You fellows may gain your freedom under one condition and that is if you will promise never to fight under the old flag again." And the noble sergeant drawing himself up to his full height said, "If those are the conditions, you may count me out and all the rest of the boys, too; is that not so, boys?" And they answered, "Yes." So the sergeant said, "Right about, face! Forward, march!" And there was not a man who was not willing to go back and die in that den for the cause for which he was fighting. HAROLD S. TAYLOR.

Repairing the Basement Stairs

The old stairs which led from the bakery to the basement have been taken away. When the old stairs were taken down, a large lot of dirt was found there and things didn't look just right where they were taken from. All the dirt was taken away and the place was all cleaned out and the masonry was all repaired and made much stronger; new and stronger stairs were put in which make the place cleaner and better looking. ERNEST CURLEY.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

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DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

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What one boy Accomplished

By Hezekiah Butterworth.

I have often thought, when asked to give advice to young men, that nothing I myself could say would be half as good advice as for me to tell the story of the life of George Stevenson.

George Stevenson was emphatically one of nature's noblemen. He was born in a colliery village, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. His father was very poor, and fired a pumping engine in the colliery. He was the second of six children, none of whom were sent to school. He helped to maintain himself in his childhood by herding cows, closing the gates after the coal wagons had passed at night, and like occupations. He was a sober, steady, hard-working lad, and was later employed on the engine with his father as an assistant fireman and subsequently as a plugman. The machinery excited his curiosity; he acquainted himself with its construction; his mechanical genius became restless, and he aspired to become an engineer. He desired to know about the engines of Watt and Bolton; he saw the necessity of book-knowledge, and at the age of eighteen began to learn to read. He at first attended a night school kept by a poor village teacher, and later took lessons of a Scotch minister who understood mathematics. He used to work out his problems in his spare minutes at the engine, and before long excelled his master in the use of figures. He was next employed as a brakeman and received liberal wages. He occupied his leisure in studying mechanics, making inventions, and modeling experimental engines. Steadily rising he was employed to superintend the working of one of Watt and Bolton's engines, near Montrose, Scotland. During his absence his aged father lost his eyesight by an accident, and, on his return to England the young man paid his father's debts, provided for his parents a comfortable home, and supported them out of his earnings.

He made many improvements in engineering apparatus, and was appointed engine-wright of Killingworth colliery. The construction of a locomotive of superior power began to be his study and day-dream. He felt that the engines of the day were practically failures; he declared his ability to produce one of superior advantages,

and was authorized by Lord Ravensworth to carry out his plan. He constructed a locomotive which was a great improvement, and, having invented the steam blast, he constructed another which was a perfect success.

Thereafter George Stevenson was a man of note. He was employed as a constructor of railways, and as an engineer, at large salaries; he established a locomotive manufactory; he superintended the construction of some of the most important railway connections in England; he was the hero of railway jubilees, at which the statesmen of the time were present; he was sent for by Leopold, King of the Belgians, who conferred with him in regard to the formation of railway lines in his kingdom; he was made a Belgian knight, and received the offer of knighthood from Sir Robert Peel. The railways of the present time would girdle the earth many times. George Stevenson's works are his noblest monuments, and will carry his name into all lands.

Notes

Jan. 1. First snow storm.

Jan. 2. Winter term of school began.

Walter L. Carpenter visited the School.

Clearing off the space near the old barn ready to be flooded for the skating pond.

Three hundred pounds of animal meal for poultry received from manager Mr. J. D. W. French.

Quarterly meeting of citizens of Cottage Row. The following officers were elected: mayor, Frederick Hill; aldermen, Joseph A. Carr, George Thomas and Charles Hill; assessor, Charles W. Jorgensen; street commissioner, Barney Hill; chief of police, Frederick F. Burchsted; jury, George Thomas, John J. Conklin, John J. Powers, Samuel A. Waycott, Frank C. Simpson, Barney Hill, Frederick W. Thompson. The mayor appointed as clerk, George Hart, librarian, Ralph O. Anderson, treasurer, C. Henry B. Bradley, janitor, Don C. Clark. The chief of police appointed as patrolmen, John J. Conklin and Charles F. Spear.

Jan. 4. An L. T. L. sociable held in the evening.

Jan. 8. Mr. Max Bennett Thrasher, former assistant superintendent, made us a visit and spoke to the boys in chapel.

Jan. 9. First skating

Jan. 11. Fine skating.

Leo T. Decis left the School to work for The Croke Printing Company, Franklin Building, Harcourt St., and live with his mother at 21 Dundee St., Boston.

Jan. 13. Robert Blanton came to spend Sunday with us.

One lot of calendars received from graduate John P. Ackers.

Jan. 14. Graduates Albert E. Gerry and Howard B. Ellis called.

Through the kindness of Mr. John C. Ham the Rev. R. L. Green of the St. John's church, South Boston, addressed the boys at 3 P. M.

Jan. 15. Putting in new pitcher pump in the boys' play room.

John J. Irving left the School to work for the American Tool and Machine Co. of Hyde Park. He boards at 48 Water St.

Jan. 16. A gift of one tub of butter received from C. F. Hovey & Co., Faneuil Hall Market.

Jan. 17. Shaw prizes awarded at the chapel hour.

Jan. 18. A squad of boys attended the Poultry Show.

Jan. 21. Rev. S. H. Hilliard of Boston addressed the boys at 3 P. M.

Jan. 22. The peacock died.

Four gray squirrels added to our list of animals.

Jan. 23. Udo Arthur Poppey entered the School.

Jan. 24. Manager Mr. Francis Shaw visited the School.

Charles McKay left the School and entered the employ of the New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R. in their car shops at New Haven, Connecticut. His address is 154

Plymouth Avenue, Hartford, Conn.

Jan. 30. The first grade and some of the instructors skated by the light of a bonfire.

More than 700 written orders for repairs were received at the shop during 1899. This does not include a great number of verbal orders. This includes wood and iron work, plumbing and painting. All the boats have been painted twice. The wharf, scow, derrick and flagstaff have also been painted. The halls, dormitories, bakery and one room have received two coats each.

A 3000 lb. derrick has been made and set up at the wharf, also a fifty foot float and blocks for grounding the steamer on when repairing or painting her. New wood work has been put in to the bakery and shop basement and henhouse. A gaff has been made for the flagstaff.

The Shaw Prizes

The semi-annual award of the Shaw prizes, the Temple Consolation prizes and Honorable Mention for the half year just ended is given below. The award of these prizes is based upon our grade system of marking. The names were read and the prizes distributed on Wednesday evening, January 17.

Shaw Prizes.

1, William C. Carr 2, Frank W. Harris
3, William C. J. Frueh 4, Horace P. Thrasher
5, Lester H. Witt 6, Joseph A. Carr
7, Samuel W. Webber 8, George Thomas
9, Samuel F. Butler 10, Willard H. Rowell.

Temple Consolation Prizes.

11, C. Alfred H. Malm 12, William Austin
13, Leo T. Decis 14 George McKenzie
15, Samuel Weston.

Honorable Mention.

16, Edward L. Davis 17, Walter D. Norwood
18, Thomas Maceda 19, Daniel Murray
20, Carl L. Wittig.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Dec. 1st, 1899,	$279.85
Deposited during the month	33.93
	$313 78
Withdrawn during the month	30.82
Balance Jan. 1st. 1900.	$282.96

The Changes

A few changes were made in the work a short time ago. A boy was changed from the sewing room to the dining room and one from the dining room to the kitchen. One of the boys that worked on the steamer went away and a wharfinger took his place. Another boy went away that worked in the printing office and so the other printing office boys moved up and a kitchen boy went in as devil. A kitchen boy was also put in as wharfinger. If a house boy gets out of the house he usually goes to the farm and a farm boy takes his place.

CHARLES A. TAYLOR.

The Calendar

Every morning before school a boy comes up to the schoolroom and writes on the board all he has found of interest that happened on that day of the month. The boy is allowed to look in any book or ask anybody to find out, and in the "Popular Educator" there are a great many things. On most every day we have some battle or some great man was born or has died. One boy can have a week of filling out the calendar and every day it is read. The calendar helps us along in history greatly because it gives dates and the names of places where the battles were fought and when noted men were born or have died.

ARTHUR I. PURDY.

Playing Games

Thursday night instead of having the regular L.T.L. meeting, Mr. Bradley let us stay down in the schoolroom and we spent the evening playing games. Four tables were brought in, two placed on each side of the room. After all was ready the games were brought in. Each chose his own game. There were crokinole, checkers, fish pond, boat race, dominoes and lots of other games. While we were enjoying ourselves some popcorn and apples were brought in and served to each one. Some of the instructors came in and spent the evening with us. We all had an enjoyable evening and didn't get to bed until nearly ten o'clock.

FREDERICK W. THOMPSON.

Ice Breaking Steamer

The Ermack designed by Admiral Makaroff of the Russian Navy is three hundred and five feet long, seventy-two feet beam and forty-two feet and six inches deep. She has eight sets of propelling engines and four screws, one at the bow to throw off blocks of ice and three at the stern. This steamer can cut through five feet of ice at a nine knot speed and by backing and going ahead has cut her way through thirty-four feet of ice flow. Although wonderful in cutting ice, nineteen inches of snow on the ice will stop all progress. This vessel was built by the Armstrongs in England.

Stamps

Quite a number of the boys are starting collections of stamps. The stamp craze generally begins in the winter when the boys cannot play foot ball, rugby, base ball and all out door sports that are played in summer. Carl Crowell has the best collection in the School; he has about thirteen hundred stamps and all are different. The boys get most of the stamps by buying packages for twenty-five, fifty cents and one dollar. The boys come round and do bargains with each other. They generally bargain with duplicates, but the boys shortened duplicates down to "dupes;" that is, they bargain with stamps they have two or more of.

THOMAS W. TIERNEY.

The New Pump

A little while ago Mr. Littlefield put in a new pump in the playroom. The old one had been there about eleven years. This new one has had a new floor laid around it and the form is different, what is called a pitcher pump. The old casing was kind of square but this one is round. The sink into which the water runs has been painted brown on the outside and enameled on the inside. The first water from the pump tasted kind of oily but now it is all right. This pump is painted green like the old one.

DANIEL W. MURRAY.

Fencing

The boys now have the fencing craze. They all want foils and want to learn to fence. Most all the boys can fence pretty well. About the best fencer in the School is Charles Edwards. He has two fencing foils and two masks to protect the face from getting hurt. The rest of the boys rig up foils; the best are thin wooden ones with leather hilts. Some that the boys make have no hilts and the other foil coming down hurts the hands. It is fine fun fencing if you do not get hurt.

WILLIAM M. ROBERTS.

New Books

Different boys got one, two and more books on Christmas from their friends and they seem to know what kind of books boys as a general thing like. Henty, Castlemon, Ellis, Alger, Stratemeyer, Capt. Mayne Reid and many other authors write good books which boys like. Christmas some very good books were given to the boys by Mr. Bradley, among which were "Among the Malay Pirates," "The Boy Captain," "Winning his Spurs" and "In the Enemy's Country." Besides money prizes, books were given to the first five boys who had the next best grade record. I don't remember all the names of the books but two of them were "Henry in the War" and "The Runaway."

CLARENCE W. BARR.

The Yacht

There is a miniature yacht in a cradle in the first schoolroom which was given us by Mr. Charles Heald. It has a single mast, three jib sails, a mainsail, and a topsail. The color is white; the keel and rudder are painted brown. The height from the bottom of the keel to the top of the mast is about eight feet and the length from the stern to the end of the bowsprit is about seven and a half feet and it is abont eight inches across at its widest part. It looks nice when it is rigged up. In school the boys are drawing the boat. Some of the drawings look nice. We are going to letter each part. There are lines so as to lower and hoist the sails and to reef them, like a real boat. The boys think it will go fast when in the water.

GEORGE G. NOREN.

Alumni

HERBERT A. STILLINGS, '91, served an apprenticeship as pattern maker with the Brainard Milling Machine Company of Hyde Park. His skill and ability were recognized by this company and at the close of his apprenticeship he was given a substantial bonus. Soon after he accepted a position with the American Tool and Machine Company of the same town where he remained for four years, giving excellent satisfaction, respected by his employers and associates. He went from this firm to the employ of E. K. Baston, 77 Travers St., Boston, as foreman in the pattern shop where he still remains.

Herbert married Miss Maude Eldridge in January, 1895 and they have a daughter nearly four years old and live at 296 Hyde Park Avenue, Hyde Park, Mass.

CHARLES A. HENRY, '93, who saw service in the U. S. N. as one of the men behind the guns at Santiago and later received his discharge on account of sickness, is now employed in G. H. Bent's foundry in Everett. Henry is married and resides in Charlestown.

ALBERT J. TRAILL, '94, is employed in a position of trust and importance at the National Sailors' Home in Quincy. This is the institution popularly known as the "Sailor's Snug Harbor". Mr. Eben Bacon, our vice president, is the president of it.

Alumni Notice

A meeting of the Board of Officers and Membership Committee of the Farm School Alumni Association was held on the evening of January 22nd, 1900, at which a majority of the Association were present. A number of important matters were discussed, considered and decided. Several other matters were left for the further consideration of the members before finally disposing of them.

The first object of this meeting was to bring the members together in a little social gathering so that they might become better acquainted with one another, and it seems that this object was accomplished. All matters will be brought before the members assembled at the next meeting, but important points and points of interest were considered at the last meeting so that the officers might get the opinions of the members on the general plan and attitude of the Association.

WILLIAM G. CUMMINGS, Secretary.

Alumni Notice

The January number of the BEACON contained a notice of the appointment of a Membership Committee from which was omitted Clarence S. Hefler's name. It should read, President French has appointed the following members to act with himself, Vice President Hermann and Secretary Cummings; as the membership committee, Alden B. Hefler, Clarence S. Hefler, William L. Snow, George Buchan, F. N. Frasier and George K. Hartman. Ed.

Why Shouldn't I?

BY MISS HELEN M. WINSLOW.

My canary bird sings the whole day long,
  Behind his gilded bars,
Shut in from all that birds enjoy
  Under the sun and stars:
The freedom, grace and action fine
  Of wild birds he foregoes;
But, spite of that, with happiness
  His little heart o'erflows;
The world is wide,
And birds outside
In happy cheer always abide.
  Why shouldn't I?

I, too, must dwell behind the bars
  Of toil and sacrifice;
From heavy heart and weary brain
  My prayers or songs arise;
But all around sad hearts abound,
  And troubles worse than mine;
If aught of comfort I can bring
  To them, shall I repine?
God's world is wide;
If I can hide
The crowding tears and sing beside,
  Why shouldn't I?

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 11. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. March, 1900.

The Band

One of the pleasant features of our School is the band. A boy who wishes to be in the band asks Mr. Bradley and he turns him over to Mr. Morse, our band instructor, who after a short examination, puts him on the instrument that he seems best adapted to. He is then given the privilege of practicing at any convenient time. When he can produce a suitable tone on his instrument he is allowed to enter the new band composed of beginners like himself and there he stays until he can play fairly well and then he is allowed to practice with the band.

In suitable weather Mr. Morse comes on Friday evenings and we have a rehearsal from half-past seven until ten and in the morning he has the beginners at the same hours. On Wednesday night the leader of the band has the band out in Gardner Hall and on Thursday he has the beginners. All other practicing is done during a boy's play-time.

We have twelve different books of music; among them are "National, Patriotic and Typical Airs of all Nations," compiled by John Philip Sousa, Band Master of the U. S. Marine Corps; "American Band Instructor," by T. H. Rollinson; Coleman's "American Brass Band School;" "Leader's Joy Band Book" by Harry Prendaville; "The Harmonic Treasure" Edward A. Samuel, Pub.; and "No. 1 Band Book," H. E. McSillen, Pub.; also three books full of the latest marches and a folio of sheet music. Mr. Shaw is interested in the band as are all our managers and he sends us music often. Mr. Morse and our graduates also give us a large number of pieces.

On Visiting Days we march to the wharf and play one or two pieces as the steamer that brings the visitors makes her landing and then with the band in the lead and the rest of the School marching in column of two's we escort the visitors to Gardner Hall; or if it is pleasant, the exercises are held out on the lawns where a concert is given by the band. At other times when our managers are here or any visitors that wish to hear the band play, the boys assemble and give a concert. On pleasure trips down the harbor the band renders patriotic airs. In the spring the band begins to practice marching and nights that are pleasant one hour is spent in drill at marching, keeping the right distance apart and the step. We march in columns of four's in military style. The boys have enjoyed the privilege of making a good many trips to the city and to some of the neighboring islands, which the band enjoys as well as the audience. Through the kindness of Mr. Littlefield, our sloyd instructor, we also enjoy the privilege of giving the musical programme for the Thomas G. Stevenson Post 26, G. A. R., Gen. Nelson A. Miles Camp 46, Sons of Veterans and Women's Relief Corps 63 of Roxbury, on Memorial Day in which we take an interest and which we enjoy very much. There has been a band in our School for nearly half a century and it has been in good condition and been built up to its present state. The average age of the boys that play in the band is fifteen years and most of the boys have been playing three or four years. Among our graduates we have a large number of good musicians who take an interest in the band and in its future success, and their kind encouraging words of commendation are always pleasant to hear. We cannot help but think of the cost of the

instruments and other things connected with the band and so try to handle them with care and to use them to the best advantage, though they are little to be compared with what is daily done for us and which we can never hope to repay. But we can have and do have a good band which shows that we are thankful for the advantages we receive from our managers and Mr. Bradley.

The band boys are as follows:

Charles A. Edwards	Solo Bb Clarinet
Warren Holmes	2nd " "
Frederick P. Thayer	3rd " "
Edward C. Crowell	Eb "
Ernest Curley	Piccolo
C. Alfred H. Malm	"
Ernest W. Austin	Solo " Cornet
Samuel F. Butler	1st " "
John J. Conklin	1st " "
Axel E. Renquist	2nd " "
John T. Lundquist	2nd " "
William Austin	Solo Eb "
Frederick Hill	" "
Alfred Lanagan	" "
George E. Hart	Baritone
Frank W. Harris	1st Bb Trombone
Samuel W. Webber	2nd " "
Frederick F. Burchsted	Solo Eb Alto
Thomas Brown	1st " "
Barney Hill	2nd " "
John F. Barr	Bb Bass
Charles Hill	Eb "
Charles B. Bartlett	Tenor Drum
Dana Currier	" "
Frederick Thompson	Bass Drum & Cymbals

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

Choosing up for the Snowball Battle

One night Mr. Bradley came in to the schoolroom and asked if we wanted to choose up for the snow ball battle and every boy with a loud voice said, "Yes!" because they all like to have a snowball battle on the 22nd of February. The boys who did not want to be in the battle went up in front. There were about fifteen of the smaller boys. We first named the boys that we wanted to be the generals and then after we had four or five we voted and the one who had the most votes was one general and the one who got the next most was the other general. The first general was Joe Carr and the other was Charles Edwards. Then they tossed up a cent to see who would have first choice in selecting officers. Joe Carr got first and he took Ernest Curley for his captain and Edwards took for his captain Tom Brown. They then chose their other officers which were two lieutenants and a color bearer. After the officers were chosen they chose their privates of which there were thirty on each side.

EDWARD C. CROWELL.

Building the Forts

The boys began preparing for the snow battle about a week beforehand but every one thought it would not snow. Finally we had a storm and began February 19th to build the breastworks for the 22nd. We piled up a large heap of snow for the foundation and then piled cake upon cake until it was about seven feet high and about two feet thick at the top. After that was done the boys filled the inside of the breastworks up to about four feet from the top and then made a shelf of snow about one foot higher to stand on and to keep the enemy off. The other breastworks were seven feet high, five feet thick at the bottom and about two feet thick at the top, and they had double walls and a square place in the back for the bags. These were small bags filled with sawdust and were to be captured during the battle. A little while before the battle it was found that one of the forts was a foot too high so it had to be taken down. For a little while before the battle the boys thought there would be none, on account of the storm, but it stopped raining and the boys patched up the forts and fought all the harder for the bags.

ARTHUR I. PURDY.

The world generally gives its admiration not to the man who does what nobody else ever attempts to do, but to the man who does best what multitudes do well. *Macaulay.*

Hockey

The boys have played hockey a good deal this winter. The way the game is played, two fellows choose up sides. There are about twenty on a side. Two sticks are set up at each end of the pond for goals. One side lines up in the middle of the pond and when the side is ready to begin the one who is going to knock the block calls out "warney" the other side "takey". Then the game begins. After the block has been knocked down from the beginning of the game the fellows try to tribble the block down to his opponent's goal. When a fellow is tribbling the block and is getting near another fellow he gives it a hard knock, but is not allowed to raise his club above his head. When it is foul it is thrown out in the middle of the field. Sometimes a fellow will almost get a goal and he gets the block taken away from him. A goal is made by knocking the block over the line indicated by the two sticks. The fellows like the game and play every noon and Saturday afternoon. Mr. Bradley gave the fellows quite a number of hockeys. The fellows play the game more than they used to. DANA CURRIER.

Skating in the Evening

Once in a while when the skating is at its best, some of the boys are allowed to go down to the pond after chapel to have a nice time skating. But times when they build fires and have torches are the best times. As soon as we get down to the pond some of the boys help Mr. Chamberlin, the instructor in charge, to build the bonfires while some of the others help the lady instructors who are down there to skate. The remaining boys go skating by themselves, sometimes by two's and some of the boys play snap the whip, tag and other games. On the third of February, which was on a Saturday, we had one of these great times and I think all of the boys enjoyed it greatly who were down there and the instructors also. One good thing about it was that when anybody was cold, he did not have to stand and freeze, but could go up by the fire and roast until he was warm enough and then go back and have another good skate.

FREDERICK P. THAYER.

Cutting Feed

We have been cutting feed for the last week or so. The feed consists of cornstalks and hay. The cutter is run by horse power. The strings are first cut off from the cornstalks, which held them together as bundles and then the cornstalks are put on the floor in a pile near the cutter with a pile of hay with them. A boy stands at the end of the cutter and hands the hay and cornstalks to the one who is feeding the cutter. While they are cutting there is a boy taking away the feed that has been cut and he puts it down the trap; then it goes to the cut feed pen, where it is mixed together and is used to feed the cows.

JOHN J. CONKLIN.

Blacksmithing

There are six of us in the blacksmith class. We have two forges and four anvils. The blacksmith class is in session from one o'clock until five every Monday afternoon. We have forty models in the course. The first model is a practice piece of iron, the last model is an iron and steel weld. Four boys work on their models at a time, the other two blow the forges, repair iron work, sharpen pick-axes, crow-bars, etc. When a large job like fixing a wagon or something of that sort is to be done we all work on it. When a new boy enters the class he generally picks up a hot iron which looks to him cold and gets a trade mark. We have a set of blue prints from which we make our models. Our stock is kept up overhead in the basement where we work. When we finish a model we cover it with oil, then we put some fresh coal on the fire and lay the model in the forge, let it get smoked up well, and then take it out and rub off the dirt with a piece of rag. If it happens to be a nut or a bolt we thread it.

"The clanging of the hammer,
The creaking of the crane,
The ringing of the anvil,
. . . .
These sounds of industry I love,
I love them all."

FREDERICK F. BURCHSTED.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

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DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

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Few persons ever gain all that their ambitions look forward to. We do not mean by this that all persons are necessarily restless or that ambition is in vain, for as we go out into the world our hopes and aims grow upon us.

As we grow older our minds grow larger by taking in new thoughts which expand the mind. It is with the mind as with the body; it must have exercise in order to grow strong. No one would be so foolish as to shut his body into a narrow room, give it no nourishing food and no exercise and expect it to grow strong and muscular.

The mind grows on the same principle. As the food to make a healthy body must furnish the right elements for muscle, blood and brain, so food for the mind must be strong and varied. By this food for the mind, we mean the books we read, the lessons we learn, the thoughts we cherish and the conversation we take part in. If these are few and small, the mind will be mean and narrow; if these are right and high, the mind will be broad and high-toned. We shall then be able to take a larger out-look of life and be capable of making our lives better and wider.

The boy who sails his toy yacht looks forward to the years when he will own a real yacht, handle the sails himself and make the wind his servant. The time comes when he has outgrown the yacht and his ambition is to propel his boat by a stronger force and be independent of the wind. If this ambition is satisfied, he may find himself at the head of a steamship line. His ambition could be satisfied because his mind was fed upon large thoughts, making his life broader.

No matter how much we are able to accomplish or how high we attain, there should still be a spirit for further achievement. There is always something more to be attained. Progress is the watchword of the day. Life is progress. If we are making no progress, we are going backward. Life never stands still.

A boy will show a lack of ambition in certain lines. He may think he never can make anything of himself because he has to study or dislikes his work in almost any line.

But it is for him to look about and find the thing which for him holds an absorbing interest and which will require his best effort.

By putting forth his best effort his life grows stronger and broader and his ambition has found something to grow upon. If he can find nothing at all to call out these efforts for his work, his life will be of no value to himself.

He will simply move through the years of his existence like a machine. Right living is always progressive as it always follows a desire to learn and if one stops learning he ceases to progress.

"Not in the clamor of the crowded street,
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng,
But in ourselves is triumph or defeat."

M. A. Winslow.

Notes

Feb. 1. Regular monthly meeting of Company X.

Feb. 3. All the boys who wished to skate spent the evening on the ice.

Feb. 4. Mr. A. T. Eddy addressed the boys at 3 P. M.

Feb. 5. A very high wind.

Feb. 7. Secretary Mr. Tucker Daland and Managers Mr. Francis Shaw and Mr. Charles P. Curtis, Jr., visited the School, accompanied by Mr. Henry Pevear of Lynn, Mass.

Feb. 12. Music for the band received from Mr. John R. Morse.

Chose sides for the snowball battle to take place Washington's Birthday.

An Otto gasoline engine came which is to furnish power for the lathes and printing presses.

Feb. 13. James Clifford entered the School.

Orra H. H. Becker left the School to live with his sister in New Haven, Conn.

William C. Carr left the School to work for Mr. C. M. Sawyer of Berlin, Mass.

Richard N. Maxwell left the School to work for Mr. Amasa O. Amidon, 503 West St., Keene, N. H.

Feb. 17. Heavy northeast snow storm.

William R. Easter visited the School.

Feb. 19. Band concert in the evening.

Plenty of snow and the boys began building their forts.

Feb. 21. William G. Cummings and Albert E. Gerry visited the School.

Feb. 22. Holiday.

Snowball battle in the afternoon.

Patriotic entertainment in the evening.

Feb. 23. Set up the engine.

Feb. 25. Very high west wind.

Telephone connection broken.

Feb. 27. On account of continued rough weather the harbor master's boat made a trip for us.

Long distance telephone in use again.

Feb. 28. Four degrees below zero at 7 A. M.

Considerable ice in the harbor.

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Feb. 1st, 1900,	$282.96
Deposited during the month	6.54
	$289.50
Withdrawn during the month	4.88
Balance Mar. 1st. 1900.	$284.62

Exercises on Washington's Birthday

Two weeks before Washington's Birthday our teachers gave out pieces for the boys to learn. A little over a week before the time came to speak, we began to rehearse our pieces and when the choir has to sing they rehearse also. Some of the boys learned their pieces very quickly while others knew only parts of theirs. The concert showed the development of the Declaration of Independence and the pieces were nearly all orations by Patrick Henry, William Pitt and such statesmen. The boys like to speak interesting pieces and they put a lot of life into them. Dana Currier spoke his piece with a lot of life and they all thought he spoke the best. The instructors said that the exercises were the best they had heard for a long time. The whole school sang three very good songs and there was a quartette by four of the boys.

Albert H. Ladd.

The programme for the evening of Washington's Birthday is given below.

SONG *School.*

LAND OF WASHINGTON

ESSAY *Herbert E. Balentine.*

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

DECLAMATION *Howard L. Hinckley.*

JAMES OTIS IN 1765

DECLAMATION *Albert H. Ladd.*

WILLIAM PITT IN PARLIAMENT

SONG *School.*

ONWARD MARCH

DECLAMATION *Dana Currier.*

WAR IS ACTUALLY BEGUN—PATRICK HENRY.

DECLAMATION *Ernest Curley.*

THE REVOLUTIONARY ALARM—GEO. BANCROFT.

QUARTETTE

MOUNT VERNON'S BELLS.

DECLAMATION *Frederick F. Burchsted.*

AMERICA STILL UNCONQUERABLE—PITT.

RECITATION *Charles B. Bartlett.*

THE UPRISING IN 1776

SONG *School.*

INDEPENDENCE DAY

DECLAMATION *Joseph A. Carr.*

SPEECH OF JOHN ADAMS—DANIEL WEBSTER.

RECITATION *C. Alfred H. Malm.*

INDEPENDENCE BELL, PHILADELPHIA

SONG AMERICA *School.*

The Snowball Battle

A day that is always looked forward to and longed for is Washington's Birthday, although one of the hardest and toughest of our sports takes place on that day. A week beforehand the sides were chosen. We did not expect to have snow for the forts, but on Saturday night our hopes were realized. It started to snow and it snowed hard, too. As we did not have time to build forts, it was decided large walls would be sufficient, and they should be called forts. By Wednesday, the day before the battle, the forts were erected. The next day it rained good and hard most of the day, and washed great holes in the walls of the forts. In the afternoon the winds abated and it was decided that the battle should take place rain or shine. Ten or fifteen minutes were given to patch up the forts and get ready for the fight. The boys rigged themselves up in all kinds of clothes. Two or three boys wore rugby suits, some wore overalls and jumpers and belts of all kinds to keep them from falling apart. At a quarter past three the whistle summoned the boys to Gardner Hall. They lined up there, on either side of the hall. The rules for the fight were read off and approved by the generals. Then the flags which were French and Russian were tossed up for. As each side received its flag they gave three cheers for it. A few minutes before half past three the two sides with their colors flying at the head of the columns marched to their respective forts. Ten bags each holding about four quarts of sawdust were placed in each fort. Three judges were appointed to keep things straight. One was stationed at each fort and one half way between. At half past three the whistle blew for the fight to begin. It was a joint attack. One side sent out an attacking party and kept a defending party and the other side "ditto." There was some terribly hard fighting on both sides for about fifteen minutes at the end of which time our general was slightly wounded and left the field of battle. Ten minutes intermission was given. When this time expired the sides lined up again. Another code of rules was read and approved. Then the boys marched to their forts again. This time it was raining. Nineteen bags were placed at even distance from each fort, at about one hundred yards. The whistle was blown and the boys started from the forts for the bags. The object was to get the bags into the forts. Groups of boys were seen here and there fighting for the bags. One side was trying to hold them and the other trying to get them away. This lasted for about ten minutes. When the time expired the other side had one more bag than we did. As they passed our fort we gave them three loud cheers, more than could be expected. Both sides then went up into the hall and the different points of the battle were brought out and talked over. Then those of the defeated side not invited to stay vacated the

Hall and left the victors to divide up their "trophy box." There was plenty of cold water, mud and snow and it was a good hard battle. The boys on each side are as follows:

FRENCH.	RUSSIAN.
General.	
Charles Edwards.	Joseph Carr.
Captain.	
Thomas Brown.	Ernest Curley.
Ist. Lieutenant.	
Phillippe Parent.	Frederick Hill.
2nd Lieutenant.	
William Austin.	William Ellwood.
Color Bearer.	
Charles Bartlett.	Samuel Webber.
Ernest Austin.	Ralph Anderson.
Herbert Balentine.	John Barr.
Charles Blatchford.	Clarence Barr.
Frederick Burchsted.	Walter Butler.
George Burke.	Don Clark.
Samuel Butler.	John Conklin.
James Edson.	Edward Crowell.
William Flynn.	Dana Currier.
Frank Harris.	Edward Davis.
Ralph Holmes.	Andrew Dean.
Charles Jorgensen.	William Frueh.
Albert Ladd.	George Hart.
John Lundquist.	George Hicks.
Alfred Malm.	Howard Hinckley.
Daniel Murray.	Charles Hill.
George Noren.	Barney Hill.
Joseph Pratt.	Warren Holmes.
John Powers.	Alfred Lanagan.
Arthur Purdy.	William May.
John Robblee.	Louis Means.
William Roberts.	Robert McKay.
Frank Roberts.	Walter Norwood.
Frank Simpson.	James Pratt.
Charles Spear.	Axel Renquist.
Charles Taylor.	Frederick Thayer.
Edward Taylor.	George Thomas.
Frederick Thompson.	Thomas Tierney.
Frederick Walker.	John Tierney.
Samuel Waycott.	Lester Witt.

Wm Austin

The Poultry Show

A short time ago Mr. Bradley took some of the boys up to see the poultry show. When we went inside all we could hear was roosters crowing and geese quacking. The most interesting things we saw were two white peacocks and some incubators in which we could see the chickens hatching out of the eggs, also a little house called a brooder which takes the place of an old hen. It is better than a hen because it can brood a great many more chicks. Besides hens there were some wild animals, such as a black bear, a large wild cat and some dead deer. There were a great many kinds of fowls, such as Brahmas, white and brown Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks. Of the web-footed birds there were African geese and different kinds of ducks. There was a great variety of pigeons. They were chiefly English pouters, fan-tail and hominy pigeons. The rabbits were very pretty. There were Belgium hares, lop-eared rabbits and common rabbits. And besides all these there were some cats one of which was said to be worth $1000. The golden pheasants were in one room; there were all kinds of dressed fowls, ducks, turkeys, geese, and their eggs. Then we saw some little Berkshire and Yorkshire pigs in some clean cages. We thank Mr. Bradley very much for his kindness in taking us to see the show.

EDWARD B. TAYLOR.

A New Boar

We have a new pig which is a pretty tame one. He is different from our other boar. He is a white one, has a kind of pug nose and has long curly hair. Our other boar is black, has a straight nose and is large and ugly. One day when we were feeding the pigs the other two pigs cornered him and made him go to the other end while they ate all the swill. So we, Fred Walker and I, cornered the other two and kept them there while the new pig ate two buckets of swill. I suppose they had their revenge on him afterwards, but he got more than he had had for quite a while. He does not eat as fast as the others and is not ugly and he keeps himself clean.

CLARENCE W. BARR.

After all, even trees have about as hard times as the rest of us, for their trunks are often seized for board. *L. A. W. Bulletin.*

Alumni

William G. Cummings, '98, has successfully passed the midwinter examinations in criminal law in the Y. M. C. A. law course.

Chester O. Sanborn, '99, is at East Westmoreland, N. H., with Mr. E. P. Amidon, on a farm. He is doing very well and giving excellent satisfaction. He writes: "I have been in the woods chopping logs and getting them ready to go to Keene. I try to look on the bright side of things and find I get along much better than when I am trying to see what there is to kick about.

Albert E. Gerry, '99, is still with the Boston Tow Boat Co., where he has been ever since he left the School. He is running a stationary engine. He is taking a course in Stationary Engineering with the American School of Correspondence of Boston.

William Davis, '99, has left the Dorchester High School and has a position with the North American Insurance Co., 58 Kilby St., Boston. His home is at 70 Neponset Ave., Dorchester.

Leo T. Decis, '00, has a good position with The Croke Printing Company, Boston. Leo was foreman of the printing office when he left the School and that experience is of great advantage to him now. He lives with his mother at 21 Dundee St., Boston.

Alumni Notice

A meeting of the Farm School Alumni Association will be held at St. Andrews Hall, Wells Memorial Building, 987 Washington St., on Monday evening, March 12, 1900, at 7.45.

Several matters of importance will be considered and all graduates of the School are invited to be present.

William G. Cummings, Secretary.
19 Milk St., Boston.

A majestic tree fell in its prime—fell on a calm evening when there was scarcely a breath of air stirring. It had withstood a century of storms, and now was broken off by a zephyr. The secret was disclosed in its falling. A boy's hatchet had been stuck into it when it was a tender sapling. The wound had been grown over and hidden away, but it had never healed. There at the heart of the tree it stayed, a spot of decay, ever eating a little farther and deeper into the trunk until at last the tree was rotted through, and it fell of its own weight when it seemed to be at its best.

So do many lives fall when they seem to be at their strongest; because some sin or fault of youth has left its wounding and its consequent weakness at the heart. For many years it is hidden, and life goes on in strength. At last, however, its sad work is done, and at his prime the man falls.—*Dr. J. R. Miller.*

Island Pleasure Association

There are twenty members in the club and we hold our meetings Tuesday evenings in the gymnasium. We have elected new officers now: Thomas Brown, president; Charles A. Edwards, vice-president; George Thomas, secretary and treasurer. We have one trainer in our athletics, Ernest Curley. We also chose Charles Edwards for the leader of the Island Pleasure Association Band and lieutenant of drill. The first thing we have is our business meeting. In it we discuss different questions and what we can do for the School and also act on applications which are sent in by outsiders. Our motto is, "Give pleasure to others." Christmas we gave the School a striking bag and gloves. After our business meeting we have half an hour's drill with guns, then we practice athletics for awhile. The apparatus we have for these athletics is traveling rings, horizontal bars, rope ladder and perpendicular ladder. After that we wind up the evening with a few selections by the Island Pleasure Association Band. Our yell is, "Boom-a-lacka, boom-a-lacka, sis-boom-bar! Ching-a-lacka, ching-a-lacka, ha! ha! ha! Boom-a-lacka! Ching-a-lacka! Who are we? Who's from the I. P. A.? We! We! We!" We go in at nine o'clock.

Charles B. Bartlett.

Thompson's Island

Beacon

Vol. 3. No. 12. PRINTED AT THE FARM SCHOOL, BOSTON, MASS. April, 1900.

Our Library

It seems almost impossible that our library was once only a few books as is shown by some of the old catalogues. During its many years of growth it has been making slow but steady progress and its best progress has been made during late years.

The greater part of our library is made up of gifts, some large and some small, but all help along a good cause and are much appreciated.

Our library covers nearly all the ground of knowledge; there are books of adventure, Bible stories and tales of Christ, chivalry, discovery, fiction, feudalism, history, invention, biography, law, poetry, science and progress.

Our library is divided into three sections, C, R, and L, and the shelves in each section are numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. and the books on each shelf are numbered likewise. In 1892 we had about 283 books in section R, 227 in section L and none in section C, a total of 510 books. Now we have 1363 books, a gain of 853 books since 1895 or an average of about eight books a month or two a week for eight years. This does not include our Cottage Row Library of about 200 books. Our books are entered in a catalogue alphabetically with the title of book, author, number of shelf and number of book on the shelf, thus,–

Title.	Author.	Shelf Number.
Ben Hur.	Lew Wallace.	R–3–59.

Each boy selects his book from the catalogues which can be found in the reading room, play room, city hall or can be had at the library, and he calls for the shelf and number. The Librarian enters his name, the shelf and number on the record, also on his library card with date.

Rules of the library are entered in the front of the catalogue and on the back of each card as follows:–

Books may be drawn from the library at any seasonable hour during the week, but the regular times are nine o'clock Sunday mornings and 7.30 Wednesday evenings.

Library privileges are extended to every person connected with the School.

Each person will be allowed to take but one book at a time.

Books of reference and other books, magazines and papers found on file in the reading room are not to be taken from the room except by permission from the office.

Books to be exchanged can be left at the library Sunday morning or any evening except Saturday.

No boy will be allowed to exchange books with another boy.

Each boy must be responsible for books taken and if soiled or mutilated he will forfeit his right to take books for one month.

Books must not be kept more than one week without permission from the Librarian.

No person can draw books without presenting his library card.

These rules are strictly followed and we thus preserve our books to benefit those who are to follow us.

Our latest gifts have been larger and more numerous than usual. We extend our thanks to Mrs. Oliver Ames for about one hunded volumes, Mrs. Sidney W. Burgess for eighty volumes, W. Graydon Stetson for fifty-six volumes, Capt. A. Ober, Wm. Garrison Reed, Mrs. E. R. Crowell, Mrs. A. T. Brown, Mrs. John Wilson and to manager John Homans, 2nd., M. D.,

for his constant interest and frequent valuable contributions to our library. These include a valuable set of encyclopedias, Harper's Pictorial War Series of thirty-two parts and many other interesting books. We have two books with the autograph of the author; one "The Secret of Achievement" presented by the author, Dr. Orrison Swett Marden. We have a complete set of Harper's Magazines, also a number of Scribner's and of the Century magazines. We have a number of books of travel, a full set of The Rollo Books and Zigzag Journeys.

From our library there is a steady stream of knowledge being taken; there is not one Sunday morning or Wednesday evening passes that there are not at least fifteen or twenty books exchanged or drawn out. Some boys obtain less of this knowledge than other boys, but not because it is anybody's fault but their own.

There are some books so interesting that they remain in the library only long enough to be recovered; (so if the author wants to impart his good thoughts to many others it would pay him well to see that his books are well bound because it is a great strain on a book to be in continual use, and thus a great deal of information is lost in a poorly bound book.)

We have books from nearly all the standard authors. They are all carefully chosen for us, so we get all the good possible from books, and escape the harm from some books which might fall into our hands if we were to make our own choice.

We have not as large a library as the Boston Public Library, yet we have an ample supply for our number.

We have the lives of most of the great men and their steps to success to profit by.

In our reference library we have Johnston's Encyclopedia, and the Britannica of 22 vols., the Statutes of Massachusetts, Acts and Resolves of Massachusetts, and a number of other Public Statutes.

"Many blessings be upon the head of Cadmus, the Phoenicians, or whoever it was that invented books."—Thos. Carlyle.

William I. Ellwood.

A Banquet

A banquet is a rare occasion here and the boys are always willing to accept an invitation to one. A banquet was given recently by Gen. Charles Edwards and his officers of the snowball battle for the benefit of his defeated side. Our instructors, the officers of the other side and three other guests were invited to partake of our enjoyment. The money was raised and a committee of two, consisting of Gen. Edwards and one of his officers, went to town to buy what was necessary. On a Tuesday afternoon Gardner Hall was arranged with tables and decorations. Toward evening the tables were set with the help of one of our instructors. From six to seven, three boys were kept going steadily carrying things to the hall. At half past eight the bugle was sounded and then our side marched out to the hall, followed by the officers of the other side and lastly came the instructors. Our officers acted as ushers. After all was quiet they took their seats. Then Gen. Edwards spoke and told what the purpose of the banquet was and asked that justice be done to what was on the table before them, and it was. Dana Currier, an invited guest, was called upon to speak a piece and he received loud applause. Different instructors were called upon to speak and they did their part well. There were about sixty-five people seated. After the banquet was over the hall was cleared for dancing. In about fifteen minutes the band was playing and the dancing commenced. The dancing lasted about half an hour. Then the boys lined up and went to bed. The next morning ten boys got up at half past four and by the time the boys came down at six there wasn't a sign of a banquet having been given. There was quite a lot of work to do before the fun of the banquet could be enjoyed but everybody was willing to help whenever there was a chance and everything went smoothly. It is true, as Gen. Edwards says, that the success of the banquet was due largely to the help of our instructors which was very much appreciated.

William Austin.

Our Firewood

Our firewood comes from the harbor and there is so much that we use only the largest pieces. This is mostly old barrels, boxes, logs and boards. When there is more wood wanted for the lumber yard the horse and cart are taken along the beach to get what we want. There is always a large lumber pile beside the old barn. The wood is used in the bakery, and other departments in the house for kindling. In the winter there is not so much for the farm boys to do outside so they go to the lumber yard and saw and split wood. Sometimes there are large logs that come ashore. The largest of these are taken over to the dikes and put into them to make them stronger. In summer the boys go along the beach and get pieces of bamboo to make bows and arrows. Sometimes there are new planks and other pieces of good wood found which are put in a separate pile and used to fix the floors of the barn and other places.

EDWARD B. TAYLOR.

The English and Boer Craze

When the South African war began the boys began to bet on different sides. Some were on the Boer's side and others were on the English side. Whenever the English side won the English fellows would begin to shout, "Buller forever!" and the Boers, "Piet Joubert forever!" Mr. Bradley tells us the news at night when he is here and sometimes the boys put the news up on the bulletin board. Some Saturdays a squad of boys get together and have sham fights and march up and down the play grounds, one squad for each side, English or Boers. Sometimes we get permission to take the practice guns up in the hall and we drill. One Saturday afternoon the two squads formed in one company and went out and captured boys for Mr. Chamberlin who were scattering things around the play grounds. If a boy gets out of line the captain or one of the officers hits him with his wooden sword and some of them go traitors against the army and fight against it.

GEORGE F. BURKE.

The Gasoline Engine

Instead of having the lathes in the shop and the printing presses run by foot power we have a gasoline engine to run them. All the sloyd benches have been moved up farther and bolted down. The engine room is partitioned off at the end of the shop next to the printing office. The floor is made stronger by placing large timbers under the floor, also by laying three layers of floor. The main shaft is placed over head about ten feet from the engine room and runs through into the printing office. The lathes are placed on the floor between the engine room and the main shaft. The engine is a five horse power Otto gasoline engine, her drive wheel makes 340 revolutions a minute, the main shaft 272, the wood turning lathe 3000 and the metal working lathe 1000. The Universal press makes from 450 to 1700 impressions an hour, the Ben Franklin Gordon press makes from 1700 to 2600 impressions an hour. The wood working lathe has four sets of speeds, the metal lathe has six and the presses have three. There is a counter shaft over each machine. The metal lathe has two belts, one crossed so it can reverse and a straight belt to go ahead; both belts are controlled by a lever. When any one wants to stop he can throw the belt onto a loose pully on the counter shaft by the lever. The wood lathe has no need of two belts as it can stop in the same way as the other one. The presses do not slip their belts as the others do. The gasoline tank is to be placed in a brick vat about fifty feet from the building. The water for her jacket comes from the main supply of water. These two supplies are connected to the engine with galvanized iron pipes. There is a gasoline pump for pumping gasoline to the engine. The governor controls the amount of gasoline that goes into the mixing valves and sends the rest to the tank. The engine has two sight oilers which can be regulated to so many drops to the minute. The batteries to work the engine's igniter are placed in the corner of the engine room boxed in.

CHARLES W. RUSSELL.

Patient waiters are no losers.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Printed Monthly by the Boys of the
FARM SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor.

A PRIVATE HOME TRAINING SCHOOL
DEPENDENT UPON DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

Vol. 3. No. 12. April, 1900.

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In order to be admitted to the Farm School a boy must be over ten and under fourteen years of age, of good moral character and in fair physical condition. Orphans or half orphans are preferred. Bad boys are not received. A relinquishment signed by the parent or guardian gives the School control until the boy is twenty-one years of age. As a rule he remains here until he is fifteen or sixteen and his time is divided between study, work and recreation in such a manner as best to develop natural aptitude, latent ability, strength and character that he may go forth equipped for the practical duties of life.

The course of study completes the grammar school grade. The manual training course includes mechanical drawing, carpentry, wood turning and wood carving for every pupil; and all in turn are employed upon the farm and perform some part in the household duties, including cooking, baking, making and mending of clothing, washing, etc. Boys are selected according to their capacity to receive instruction in blacksmithing, painting, cobbling, printing and typewriting and to assist in the care and management of boats and in all the general repairs.

At fifteen or sixteen, or at graduation, if the boy's parent can provide a suitable home, he is returned to the parent, otherwise a place for which he seems adapted is selected and he begins his career in the world receiving such supervision or assistance from the School as the individual case may require.

Applications for admission are considered on Tuesdays at the office of Mr. Tucker Daland, 19 Exchange Place, Boston, Room 12, at 12 o'clock. C. H. Bradley

The New England Magazine for April contains an illustrated article on this School written by Mr. Max Bennett Thrasher, our former assistant superintendent. Mr. Thrasher in his attractive way and with a full knowledge of our work tells a well connected and interesting story of the School, its early history and its aim, who are interested in it, who are received as its pupils, its special features, Cottage Row, Bank, Band and Beacon, manual training, etc., together with

a brief history of the Island and a good description of it. All graduates and friends of the School will be pleased to see this article, as well as many others who are interested in similar lines.

C. H. B.

Our thanks are due to the Mail & Express, Broadway and Fulton Sts., New York, for a very complimentary article signed J. E. C. in the editorial section in their issue of March 17th.

C. H. B.

Notes

Mar. 1. Regular meeting of Company X.

Mar. 2. Heavy weather.

Harbor Master's boat made a trip for us.

Mar. 5. Water cistern removed from Gardner Hall basement.

Mar. 6. Large squirrel cage with a wheel made.

Mar. 8. A few of the boys attended the Sportsman's Show.

Mar. 9. Maps in second schoolroom put on spring rollers.

Mar. 13. A banquet given by the defeated officers to the winners of the snowball battle of February 22nd.

The scow which serves as our landing at Park Pier became flooded and had to be beached, pumped out and repaired.

Mar. 14. Grading the slope back of Gardner Hall.

Mar. 16. Winter term of school closed.

Mar. 21. Squad of boys took a trip down the harbor and saw the ruins of the late fire at Rainsford Island.

Mar. 22. The gasoline engine started for the first time.

The treasurer, Mr. Arthur Adams, spent the day at the School.

Mar. 23. Boys' bath tubs re-enameled.

Mar. 24. First press work done in the printing office with the new power.

Mar. 26. Sowed seeds in hot bed.

Senator Cooper who was travelling with Mr. and Mrs. Bradley in the Bahama Islands and Cuba and returned home with them left for his home in North Dakota after a very pleasant visit here.

Spring term of school began.

Mar. 29. Ordered garden seeds.

Mar. 30. Re-arranged sloyd benches in the shop.

Numbered and lettered the settees in chapel.

Wood lathe run for the first time by the new power.

Freight barge, John Alden, painted one coat on the outside.

Rank in Classes

The following named boys ranked first and second respectively in their classes for the winter term of school.

ALGEBRA CLASS

William Austin — Ernest W. Austin

FIRST CLASS

William I. Ellwood — C. Alfred H. Malm

SECOND CLASS

George Thomas — George G. Noren

THIRD CLASS

Daniel Murray — John W. Robblee

FOURTH CLASS

Clarence DeMar — Barney Hill

FIFTH CLASS

William C. J. Frueh — Walter L. Butler

SIXTH CLASS

Horace P. Thrasher — Frank W. Roberts

Farm School Bank

Cash on hand Mar. 1st, 1900,	$284.62
Deposited during the month	12.24
	$296.86
Withdrawn during the month	16.97
Balance April 1st, 1900,	$279.89

If there is anything that is disgusting it is to see a person gorge himself simply because he has a chance. It may look smart in the eyes of the offender, but rest assured, it is very disgusting in the eyes of the public. Especially is this so with boys. We hope that every boy in this School will cultivate manly habits.

A Welcome

Tuesday, March 20, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley returned home from their long trip to the Bahama Islands and Cuba. While they were coming in the steamer we dipped the Stars and Stripes three times and they blew the steamer's whistle three times in return. When they landed and were coming up the avenue the boys gathered together and gave three hearty cheers, which Mr. Bradley acknowledged by tipping his hat. We were all glad to see them back again. The same night Mr. Bradley came into the schoolroom and told us some things about his trip to Cuba; after he got through, when we were marching out of chapel, he shook hands with every boy. He gave each boy a Spanish button off of some of the Spanish soldiers' clothes. He brought back a number of relics of the Spanish American War.

SAMUEL W. WEBBER.

Drawing Lessons

We have drawing lessons twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. We have a special drawing pencil to draw with and that is all we are supposed to use it for. The first thing we draw is a sphere which is the first type solid. Then we draw things based on the sphere, such as an apple, a baseball, a croquet ball, a cat and a balloon. Then we draw a cylinder which is the second type solid and a bottle which is based on the cylinder. We all have to draw free hand and some of the boys in the first and second classes have drawn free hand so long that you can hardly tell the difference between their work and that drawn with a rule and compass. When a boy has a good drawing Miss Strong puts it on the wall with the best drawings on top and so on down to the bottom of the pile.

CHARLES F. SPEAR.

Cleaning Bricks

The bricks from the water cistern that was in the shop cellar were put in a pile out on the grass behind the hall. Since it has become warm outside some of the farm boys go up and clean the mortar off them. They have two hatchets, about eight hammers and about ten drills to clean the bricks with. We put the good bricks which they do in one pile, the bricks that are more than half good in another pile, and the bricks that are not good at all in another pile. Mr. McLeod and I have taken almost all the bricks that are no good at all away.

ALFRED LANAGAN.

Hide-and-go-Seek

After supper the boys go out around the red bench and get up a game of hide-and-go-seek. The one that makes up the game has the boys line up in a row. Sometimes he counts by numbers and sometimes he says, "Red white and blue, all out but y-o-u!" We have the red bench for the goal. The boy that is blinder blinds and counts five hundred by fives. When he is through counting he says, "No staying around my goal or you will be it." The boys get in a group of four or five and take each other's hats and put them on. Sometimes we hide in the shed, hall and up near the gardens. When the boys get a chance they will run in and say, "One, two, three, for the boys I see!" and tag the goal.

CHARLES A. BLATCHFORD.

Fixing the Gardens

About the first of April Mr. Chamberlin told the boys to have their gardens fixed up ready to plant seeds. When we were dismissed a crowd of boys were seen running up to the gardens with picks, hoes, shovels, trowels, and rakes. A boy would first use a pick, then shovel it, then he would rake out all the stones, dry leaves and other rubbish which had got there during the winter, and level it off. After a boy would get his garden all dug and raked, he would start to stone it. Mr. Chamberlin has put a string along the edges; with this a boy can have his garden stoned straight. The seeds are usually given out when all the gardens are fixed. They look well when all stoned and ready for seeds.

DANIEL W. LAIGHTON.

He lives longest, who best uses most of the hours of his life. Age is not a matter of years but of employment.

The five horse power engine that has been set up in the shop is run by an explosion of a mixture of gasoline and air. The gasoline is drawn in by a pump on the engine from a tank fifty feet from the shop-building and exploded in the cylinder by an electric spark. The engine uses gasoline every other revolution, the time between being used in compressing a mixture of gasoline and air, exploding it and getting out the exhaust.

264,600 tons of copper were produced in the United States last year; this is ten and one-half per cent gain over the year before. Copper has become so valuable that old copper coins have been imported and melted up.

Writing Letters

We usually have our writing day on the fifteenth of each month that we do not have a Visiting Day. The boys who have writing paper of their own use that, while the other boys use the regular School paper. Our writing paper has the colors of the School, the paper yellow or gold and the envelope blue. The boys who can write their letters in ink first do so, while the others write on their work paper first. After a boy is through with his letter he raises his hand and goes up to the desk where it is corrected by the teacher. After that he copies it on the writing paper in ink. Each boy has to have his letter punctuated properly. As the boys have a whole month's incidents to write about they often write long letters. After a boy gets through he spends the rest of his time reading and studying. We are marked on our letters the same as on our regular studies. C. Alfred H. Malm.

Shop Work

There has been quite a lot of work in the shop lately. There was a cage built for the squirrels; it is lined with gavlanized iron on the bottom and a wheel goes in one side for the squirrels to swing in. It is made of two round boards with irons running from one side to the other. It swings on two brass pipes; three squirrels can make it go at once. When our engine came we had to make a place for it. The foundation was first made and a header had to be put over the paint shop window. This holds two pieces of four by twelve pine which are braced at the other end by two uprights six inches square. Three floors were laid on top of the regular floor, two of spruce and the top one of inch and a half oak. Some of the chairs and tables from the dining-room have been repaired and painted.

Dana Currier.

The New Settees

Last Thanksgiving we had the desks and seats taken up in the first schoolroom. They were hard to get up having been there for a long time. After they were taken up we had to scrape the places from which they were taken. They were taken up to make room for the tables that were used on Thanksgiving Day. The schoolroom looked so well that we did not put them down again, and chairs were used for the boys to sit in at chapel time. A little while ago Mr. Bradley had some settees sent here. When they arrived they were put in the shop where they were fixed up and had numbers painted on them so that the boys can sit where their numbers are. They are to take the places of the old desks and seats which were put down in the storage barn. When it is school time the settees are put in the back part of the room and three tables with chairs are used instead of the desks and seats. John J. Conklin.

Building the New Cottage

The owners of the Lilac cottage have torn it down and it will be replaced with a more modern cottage. The Lilac was the first cottage to be built. The fellows didn't know as much about building cottages then as they do now. The first task was to tear the old one down, the next will be to draw the plan, the next to build it and make the lawn and walks; after that the cottage will be complete. Mr. Bradley has offered a prize to the boy who draws the best plan for it. The old Lilac was planned in 1892 and torn down December 16, 1899. When we build the new cottage we will find a good deal of our timber on the beach and the rest we will get from the School, but we buy the clapboards, cloth and other things in that line. We hope to have a library as we have had the books given to us by our friends and as prizes.

Frederick F. Burchsted.

Alumni

William I. Peabody, '91, has a good position as inspector of lights for the Kitson Lighting Company. He rooms with Wm. L. Snow at 774 Dudley Street, Dorchester.

William R. Easter, '93, formerly employed by the American Tool & Machine Co., of Hyde Park, has been out of health for some time and after consulting Dr. Vincent Y. Bowditch some of our managers have kindly sent him to Aiken, South Carolina, where we sincerely hope he will be benefited. Charles A. Lind, '93, a shopmate and good fellow accompanied him on the trip to lend what assistance might be needed and to see William comfortably located.

Walter Smeaton, '93, has for seven years been in the employ of Mr. George B. Watson, manager and principal owner in the American Mica Co. Walter has worked in the office of the company, served as apprentice, learning the various processes of preparing mica for the many and increasing purposes for which the mineral is used, and he has now been sent to one of the company's mines in Sydenham, Ontario, to become familiar with this branch of the business. Walter was a popular fellow when at the School and with his faithful and earnest make-up and steady devotion to this growing industry we shall expect to hear more from him.

Alumni Notice

A meeting of the Farm School Alumni Association was held on Monday evening, March 12, and many matters of importance were decided.

An entertainment Committee was appointed for the purpose of arranging for such an entertainment as they should decide upon to be held at such time and place as to this Committee seemed best. Clarence W. Loud was elected Chairman of the Committee and the other members are George K. Hartman, Frank G. Bryant, William L. Snow and William G. Cummings. An announcement of this Committee will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Beacon. Thomas Punchard, Richard Bell, John P. Ackers, Arthur F. Littell, Thomas U. Follansbee and Thomas J. Fairbairn were admitted to membership in the Association.

The amendment to the constitution which was presented by the Treasurer, providing that the annual dues of all present members of the Association are payable and hereafter be payable on the first day of January in each year, was accepted. This amendment provides that the dues of all present members were payable on the first day of last January.

President French presented a suggestion in regard to the organization of a band among the graduates of the School, and invited all those who may be interested in this matter to communicate with him concerning it after they have had a chance to give it due consideration.

A portion of the business was laid upon the table for the present and after the adjournment at half past nine o'clock the remainder of the evening was pleasantly spent with a phonograph for which arrangements had been made; and a number of those present who possess more or less vocal talent enjoyed a few minutes among the latest popular productions.

William G. Cummings,
Secretary.

Alumni Notice

A Whist party and Entertainment under the auspices of the Farm School Alumni Association is to be held on Wednesday evening, April 18, 1900, at Arcade Hall, No. 7 Park Square, Boston, Mass. Whist from 8 to 10 o'clock followed by an entertainment and opportunity for refreshments.

All graduates of the School are invited to procure tickets. Orders for tickets should be sent to the Secretary, William G. Cummings, 19 Milk Street, Boston, in order to receive prompt attention. Refreshments can be procured at the hall. As this is the first social which the Association has held, the Entertainment Committee has made every effort to have it a success, and the hearty co-operation of all members is cordially solicited.

Clarence W. Loud,
Chairman of the Entertainment Committee.

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